

THE FIRST LOOK ISSUE

Jan. 8/15, 2016 • #1397/98

SNEAK PEEKS AT 2016'S
HOTTEST MOVIES,
TV SHOWS, AND MORE

Entertainment WEEKLY

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

Benedict Cumberbatch IS Doctor Strange

ON THE SET OF THE
MOST MYSTICAL,
MAGICAL MARVEL
MOVIE EVER



87

**EXCLUSIVE
FIRST LOOKS
INCLUDING**

GAME OF THRONES

OUTLANDER

GHOSTBUSTERS

BATMAN V
SUPERMAN

THE GIRL ON
THE TRAIN

RYAN REYNOLDS'
PECS & ABS



COLLABORATE OR RESIST

FROM CARLTON CUSE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF LOST

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#Colony | ColonyTV.com

THE
TOP 10 THINGS
WE LOVE
THIS WEEK

The Must List

▼ Will Smith



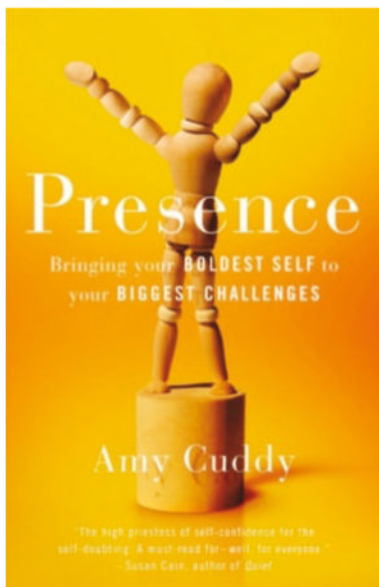
1

MOVIES CONCUSSION

• As Bennet Omalu, a doctor taking on the NFL, Will Smith is deftly understated in this deeply disturbing true story that's also an immigrant tale about a man who refuses to believe that America isn't the best place on earth. (PG-13)

The Must List

2
→



3
→



2 **BOOKS** **PRESENCE,** by Amy Cuddy

Chances are you're one of the more than 30 million people who have seen social psychologist Cuddy's TED talk about "power poses." Here, she explains further how to use your own body language to achieve personal fulfillment.

3 **MUSIC** **HITNRUN** **PHASE TWO,** Prince

His Purpleness' second stealth album of 2015 finds him continuing his late-period winning streak. *Phase Two* delivers even more bedroom jams, funk spasms, and white-knuckle rockers, as well as the uplifting tear-jerker of a protest single "Baltimore."

4
→



4 **PODCASTS** **HERE'S** **THE THING**

Host Alec Baldwin is equal parts interviewer and raconteur on the biweekly talk show featuring celebrity guests and lesser-known policy makers and cultural tastemakers that's as intellectually stimulating as it is raucously entertaining.

5
→



5 **MOVIES** **ANOMALISA**

Charlie Kaufman's poignant look at what it means to be human features no humans at all, relying instead on gorgeous stop-motion animation. (R)

PRINCE: KEVIN MAZUR/REIMAGE.COM; BALDWIN: MARY ELLEN MATTHEWS; ANOMALISA: PARAMOUNT PICTURES

"NOT JUST GOOD, IT'S STARTLINGLY GOOD"
—THE NEW YORK TIMES

AMERICAN CRIME

NEW SEASON. NEW STORY. JAN 6 **WEDNESDAYS** 10|9c



#AmericanCrime

The Must List

6



7



8



9



10



6

MOVIES 45 YEARS

Veteran stars Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay anchor acclaimed director Andrew Haigh's quietly riveting portrait of a seemingly sturdy marriage shaken by a sudden revelation on the eve of the pair's anniversary. (R)

7

MUSIC THE HATEFUL EIGHT soundtrack

Working on his first Western in decades, film-score legend Ennio Morricone turns in a grand piece of accompaniment that matches the movie's wide-screen majesty. Spring for the well-appointed vinyl.

8

TV TELENOVELA

Eva Longoria's workplace comedy, on which she plays the Spanish-challenged star of a Spanish-language soap opera, hits the mark by mixing goofy wit with outrageous drama. (NBC, Mondays, 8:30 p.m.)

9

GAMES AMONG THE SLEEP

Childhood can be terrifying, a notion this award-winning survival horror videogame exploits to great effect. As a footie-pajama-wearing toddler tasked with simply making it through the unforgiving night, you navigate a dreamscape that is scary and oddly moving.

10

TV AMERICAN CRIME

The nuanced anthology series and its powerhouse cast (led by Regina King, Lili Taylor, and Felicity Huffman) return with a turbulent new case involving a high school sexual assault. (ABC, Wednesdays, 10 p.m.)

A full-length portrait of Bill Maher standing against a black background. He is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

DELIVER US FROM SPIN

REAL TIME
WITH
BILL MAHER

LIVE! JANUARY 15
FRIDAYS 10PM **HBO**

OR WATCH IT ON **HBO NOW**

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Ryan Reynolds gets locked and loaded as Deadpool (out Feb. 12)



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The hero of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* doesn't just shatter centuries of sexist stereotypes, she could become the defining character for a generation.
BY NICOLE SPERLING

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Doctor Strange
On the set of Marvel's trippiest movie yet, Benedict Cumberbatch conjures the cosmic superhero known as the Sorcerer Supreme—and unlocks the secret of his own power.
BY CLARK COLLIS

36
The First Look Issue
Get ready for the best year ever. Zac Efron will be your neighbor (again), Bran's back on *Game of Thrones*, *Outlander* moves to Paris, and Ryan Reynolds goes shirtless. Plus, January is all about you: It's Fanuary! And we've got your first look at it all.

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ON THE COVER
Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange photographed exclusively for EW by Michael Muller on Nov. 30, 2015, in Surrey, England

A clown will rise.

ZACH GALIFIANAKIS

BASKETS

JAN 21
THURS 10 **FX** FEARLESS

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THEIR TIME IS NOW

DC's **LEGENDS** OF TOMORROW



SERIES PREMIERE **JAN 21 THUR 8/7c** **THE CW** **DARE TO DEFY**

©2015 The CW Television Network, LLC





Your First Look at 2016 (and a Shameless Plug for Michigan Football)



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hope you are having a great holiday season. I plan to usher in 2016 in my Gap flannel pajamas watching the Michigan Wolverines (fingers crossed!) pound the bejeezus out of the Florida Gators* in the Buffalo Wild Wings Citrus Bowl.**

My staff knows you're not here for college football picks, so they've been scouring their beats to dig up scoop on 87 films, TV shows, albums, and books for our first-ever First Look issue. I asked some of these staffers to share the projects for which they're most excited.***



Kevin O'Donnell
Senior Editor,
Music

DAVID BOWIE, **BLACKSTAR**

The Thin White Duke continues to make some of the most forward-thinking music around—and the songs on his 28th(!) studio album sound like nothing else in pop music right now.



Noelene Clark
West Coast
Deputy News Director

ORPHAN **BLACK**

I'm counting the days until I see Tatiana Maslany, Jordan Gavaris, and the rest of the team return for their fourth season on BBC America. Thrilling sci-fi premise and masterful acting aside, no other show portrays family, sisterhood, and sexuality with more nuance and tenderness.



Aaron Morales
Senior Associate
Art Director

VIRTUAL REALITY

Both Oculus Rift (owned by Facebook) and Sony's PlayStation VR will launch this year, and I've been impressed with the sense of immersion in hands- (and face-) on demos. But will gamers spend hundreds of dollars to sit on the couch with a headset obscuring the outside world, or is that just virtual insanity? Either way, I'm excited to find out. [Ed. note: Aaron!!! Are you talking about the year 2016—or 3016???



Shirley Li
Editorial
Assistant

ACCIO **FANTASTIC BEASTS** AND WHERE TO FIND THEM!

I may be a Muggle—wait, make that a “No-Maj”—but I'm more than ready to dive back into the Wizarding World with Newt and his magical briefcase menagerie.

...

ONE MORE NOTE: In January, we're launching a campaign on EW.com to celebrate *you*, pop culture's biggest fans. During the month of Fanuary™****, we'll be offering you a zillion ways to contribute to our brand. Perhaps you want to write us some fan fiction or submit a video describing why you're the No. 1 devotee of, say, *Supernatural* or *X-Men*. If nothing else, we hope you'll play our bracket game to determine which pop culture franchise/artist has the *ultimate* fandom. Check out EW.com every day starting Jan. 4 for more details and ways to participate. Or tweet us using the hashtag #EWFanuary.

Here's to a great 2016!

All the best,

HENRY

HENRY GOLDBLATT

*Yes, I'm publicly coming out... as a college football fanatic.

**Does anyone have a recipe for citrus buffalo wings (preferably boneless)? Um, asking for a friend...who can be reached at editor@ew.com.

***My pick is *American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson*, debuting Feb. 2 on FX. It's *amazing* and you'll be hearing a lot more about it very soon.

****We liked the name so much we trademarked it!

AN AMAZON ORIGINAL SERIES

Mozart in the Jungle

NOMINATED FOR 2 GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS



NEW SEASON 12/30

STREAM WITH PRIME

amazon 

THE WEEK'S
BEST

Sound Bites



**TWEET
OF THE
WEEK**
Wait, Sepp
Blatter is not
a Star Wars
villain but an
actual one?
**@stephen
falk (You're
the Worst
creator)**

**"It makes
me sound
like a fabric
softener, or
a packet of
crisps."**

—Adele, explaining her
dislike of the word
brand, in
Time magazine

**"I wasn't allowed
a real life or real
love. That was for
normal people. With
you, I thought, well,
maybe, just maybe."**

—Quinn (Rupert Friend),
in a letter to
Carrie (Claire Danes),
on *Homeland*

**"Canon: brown eyes,
frizzy hair and very
clever. White skin was
never specified. Rowling
loves black Hermione."**

—J.K. Rowling, reacting on Twitter to
the casting of a black actress for the
role of Hermione in *Harry Potter
and the Cursed Child*

**"You know what
you are, Terry? You're
like a gas leak: We don't
see you, we don't smell
you, but you're silently
killing us all."**

—Rudy (Robert De Niro),
yelling at his wife
(Virginia Madsen),
in *Joy*

**"Darling,
you've got to
start wearing
bigger earrings to
distract from
the wrinkles."**

—The Grand Duchess (Joan Collins),
to Queen Helena (Elizabeth
Hurley), on *The Royals*

**"Parents in
Connecticut
were upset after an
elementary-school teacher
had students in her class
change the lyrics of 'Silent
Night' from 'holy night' to
'solstice night.' Worse, she
changed the name 'Virgin
Mary' to 'Over-the-
Jeans Mary.'"**

—Tina Fey, on "Weekend Update,"
while cohosting
Saturday Night Live

**"The NFL owns a
day of the week. The
same day the church
used to own. Now it's
theirs. They're very big."**

—Dr. Wecht (Albert Brooks),
warning Dr. Omalu (Will Smith)
about the power of the
NFL, in *Concussion*

FAK: PAUL ARCHULETA/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES; ADELE: KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; FRIEND: STEPHAN RABOLD/SHOWTIME; COLLINS: EI ENTERTAINMENT; ROWLING: CINDY ORD/GETTY IMAGES; FEY: DANA EDLSON/NBC; BROOKS: MELINDA SUE GORDON

HOW FAR WILL YOU TAKE IT



THE ALL-NEW RAV4 HYBRID

With spacious cargo capacity* and standard All-Wheel Drive with intelligence (AWD-i).

Prototype shown with options. Production model may vary. *Cargo and load capacity limited by weight and distribution. ©2015 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.



Let's
Go
Places

News+Notes

2016: THE YEAR THAT WILL BE

Don't spend another second wondering what the next 12 months will bring—we already know. **By Marc Snetiker**

Friends, rejoice: We made it! The year 2015 is finally coming to a close. We survived Trump and Pizza Rat (which, contrary to popular belief, are two different things), and we'll emerge on the other side of Jan. 1 fresh-faced and ready to pack the year's zeitgeist with juicy new pop culture. So we pulled out the crystal Bullseye and used our prowess to predict what will have you buzzing, babbling, and bawling in the new year.

MOVIES

THE GEEKS EXPAND THEIR EMPIRE

In a post-*Ant-Man* world, no superhero is too obscure to inhabit the same silver screens

where, in 2016 alone, Batman will face Superman, Iron Man will war with Captain America, and Doctor Strange will go weird-to-weird with Tilda Swinton's the Ancient One. Expect big announcements for Howard the Duck, Squirrel Girl, and the Wonder Twins (with Finn Wittrock as both Zan and Jayna). Hollywood, having tapped dry the well of comic books and sequel-less movies from 12 years ago (spoiler alert: They can't find Dory because she's with Zoolander), will shift the creativity sap to the world of video-games. You'll have barely explained *Assassin's Creed*,

Warcraft, and *Angry Birds* to your grandparents when you'll have to start all over again and clarify that *Toad*—a 2017 Mario spin-off—is the new *Minions* and that a live-action *Q*bert* is not as obscure as it looks.

MUSIC

COMEBACKS GO FOR GOLD

One Direction's hiatus begins this spring, paving the way for a new boy band to rise in their absence. (We know

two Jonas brothers who are available.) Frank Ocean may finally release his latest album, if he hasn't already done so at 3 a.m. on a Thursday by the time you read this; he'll be joined by surprise comebacks from Blondie, George Michael, and the guys who sang

(From left) The Wonder Twins and Glee, George Michael, Adele, Kate McKinnon as Hillary Clinton, Stephen Colbert, Paula Abdul, Ryan Murphy, and Big Bird; (top) Meghan Trainor





"Chasing Cars" in the season 2 finale of *Grey's Anatomy*. Meanwhile, Ariana Grande will lick a cruller, 2016's song of summer will just be Adele coughing (feat. sighs by Florence Welch), and Meghan Trainor's lips will keep movin' as she provides the official theme song for

the Rio Olympics—though her "Waka Waka" is more Fozzie Bear than Shakira.

TV **OLD IS NEW; NEW IS WEIRD**

The X-Files! Full *House!* Paula Abdul! Relics of the past are revived, as dearly departed series return with more wrinkles—both in narrative and complexion—and *American Idol*'s final season forces you to remember where you keep your landline.

While the adults stay distracted with Ryan Murphy's *American Horror Story*: *Trader Joe's*, Derek Hough and Chace Crawford in *The CW's Les Misérables Live*, and reboots of *Square Pegs* and *L.A. Law*, the millennials will be left to set their sights on taking over children's programming. Now that *Sesame Street* has moved to HBO (brought to you by the number NC-17 and the letter char-donnay), Netflix's *Lemony Snicket* and *Green Eggs and Ham* series won't seem any stranger than Vince Gilligan's origin story of *Amelia Bedelia* or FX's bloody reimagining of *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*.

THE ELECTION **FREEDOM OF TWEETS**

From the makers of *Periscope* and the Declaration of Independence comes Social Media Presidential Election, the year's hottest and most unbearable vessel for public discourse on our country's political future. For the first time in American history, candidates must contend with passive-aggressive hashtags (the kids call it "Mudslinging and Chill") and unnecessary memes, the most popular being a yet-to-be-taken photo of Bill Clinton on a chaise. The 2016 election trail will also welcome the return of series regulars Stephen Colbert and Kate McKinnon, as well as pivotal new guest stars like Gay Son-in-Law and Republican Mistress—a recurring role not yet cast, though the studio is reportedly searching for an "Alyssa Milano type."

Better in 2016

New Year's resolutions for our favorite characters (both fictional and real) of 2015.

By Marc Snetiker



► **OLIVIA POPE**
Expand wine palate and try more sweet whites.



► **HODOR**
Renew subscription to Rosetta Stone.



► **MR. ROBOT**
Spend more time outside looking for the right Mrs. Robot.



► **ANT-MAN**
Be the bigger person.



► **COOKIE LYON**
Find a way to give back to the cheetah-print print community.



► **DAREDEVIL**
Invest in better office lighting and consider leaving Hell's Kitchen.



► **POE DAMERON**
Splurge on a new jacket.



► **THE FLASH**
Just stop, breathe, and take it all in, you know?



► **ROBERT DURST**
Get that eye checked out.

Scoring the Looks You Loved

By Isabella Biedenharn and Nina Terrero



● HOMELAND

I'm dying to know where to get the cross-body bag Claire Danes wears as Carrie Mathison on *Homeland*. It looks so chic. —ROBIN

Carrie's famous—and sleek—Marc by Marc Jacobs cross-body (below, in its updated style, the Ligerio Double Percy) wasn't supposed to make the two-and-a-half-year time jump with its owner, costume designer Katina Le Kerr tells EW. "We had put her things away. She's a new woman," she says. "But it's the perfect spy bag, so at the end of the day, Carrie went back and dug it out. Why argue with goodness?" According to Le Kerr, Danes even has a nickname for the bag. "She calls it 'Friend,'" she says. "We're on set, ready to go, and she's like, 'Where's my Friend?'"



CROSS-BODY BAG

marcjacobs.com \$248



● THE FLASH

I love the floral-printed dress Caitlin wears in the fourth episode of *The Flash*'s second season. Who makes it? —SARAH

Caitlin (Danielle Panabaker) is sartorial proof that scientists don't have to make sacrifices in the style department. Case in point: In the episode "The Fury of Firestorm," she swapped her white lab coat for a pop of color—this body-hugging V-neck Ted Baker "Antonya" frock. It's an ideal sheath for the office, and for taking on metahumans, if that's your thing.



MIDI DRESS

asos.com \$285



● TELENVELA

I've been looking for the perfect platform shoes, and the ones Eva Longoria wore as Ana Sofia in the *Telenovela* premiere totally fit the bill. Where can I find them? —LAUREN

Costume designer Janie Bryant created Ana Sofia's lust-worthy snakeskin sandals at custom retailer Shoes of Prey (where she also released a *Mad Men* capsule collection). "They're super chic," says Bryant of the heels, which complement Ana Sofia's wardrobe of soft pastels. "Eva was always commenting, 'Oh my God, they're so high but so comfortable.'" Design a similar pair (or add your own flair) online.



PLATFORM HEELS

shoesofprey.com Price varies

The Music-Streaming Arms Race Escalates

As top music services fight for your auditory attention, here's what—and where—you can expect to stream in 2016. **By Kyle Anderson**

With the exception of making Adele's 25 available, streaming services are doing all they can to dominate the market in the new year. **Apple Music** is on track to match **Spotify's** paid subscriber base of 20 million by the end of 2016. The service broke big in the exclusive business with December's Taylor Swift concert film, and is expected to launch the hi-fi streams for which **Tidal** charges a premium. Despite tepid numbers, Tidal continues to own the exclusive game with the just-released Prince album *HITNRUN Phase Two* and a recent live-streamed concert by Jay Z, Beyoncé, and Nicki Minaj. Jay's next move is into original series—Tidal already has two shows, with more to come in an effort to become a one-stop media shop. **Pandora's** acquisition of on-demand service Rdio means it's about to make a run at Spotify, which, in the meantime, is focusing on advancements like its impressive new algorithm-based Party mode. No matter where you listen, expect the noise in the marketplace to be turned way up.



▶ Beyoncé, Jay Z, and Taylor Swift



10-YEAR CLASS REUNION

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

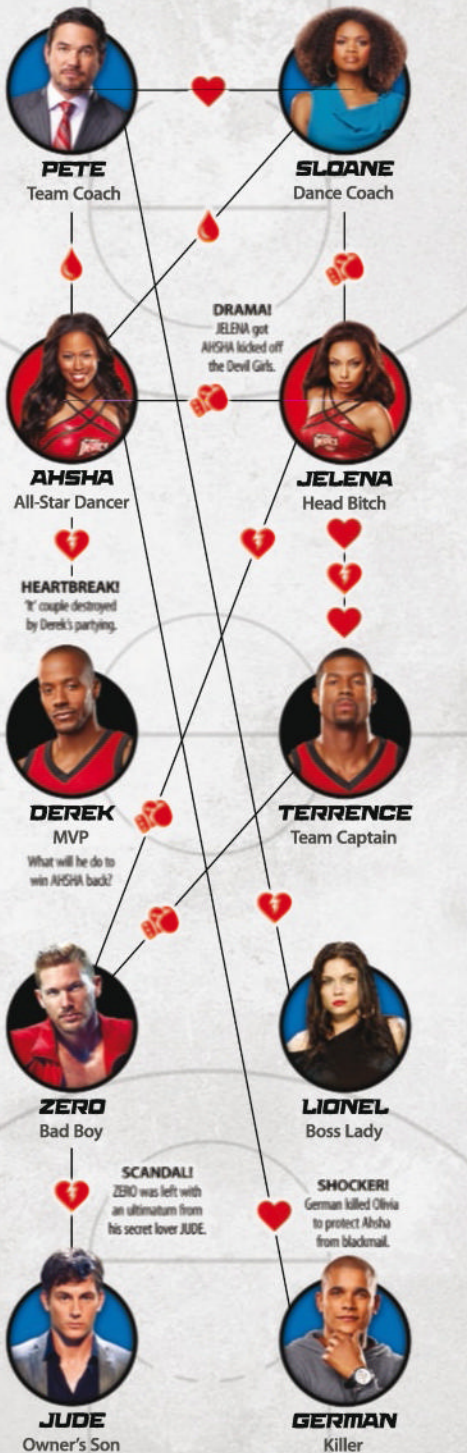
A decade after the premiere of Disney's record-breaking TV movie, we check in on the success of its stars—and their respective characters. **By Marc Snetiker**

ACTOR	CHARACTER
 <p>Zac Efron Efron graduated to the A list, leaving his mark on <i>Neighbors</i>, <i>Hairspray</i>, <i>That Awkward Moment</i>, and our favorite role, Chiseled Hunk, now in its 10th season.</p>	 <p>Troy Bolton Troy attended Berkeley, where he was a theater major but not a star. He works as a youth basketball coach in Fresno. He has feelings for Gabriella. He also has nodes.</p>
 <p>Vanessa Hudgens The queen of Coachella dabbled in music then focused on films like 2013's <i>Spring Breakers</i> and theater (she'll revisit high school as Rizzo in Fox's <i>Grease: Live</i> in 2016).</p>	 <p>Gabriella Montez Gabriella attended Stanford and graduated first in her biochemistry program. She hasn't talked to her high school boyfriend since because she turned out normal.</p>
 <p>Ashley Tisdale A bona fide Disney star, the Tis went on to lead five TV series (<i>R.I.P. Hellcats</i>), release two albums, and give her best Goop with lifestyle site the Haute Mess.</p>	 <p>Sharpay Evans Sharpay found brief fame in 2009 after an accident on her QVC series <i>The Sharpay Image</i> ("Singer bedazzles eyelids closed") went viral on YouTube.</p>
 <p>Corbin Bleu Bleu briefly hit it big on Broadway, replacing Lin-Manuel Miranda in <i>In the Heights</i> in 2010 before inexplicably joining the online cast of soap <i>One Life to Live</i>.</p>	 <p>Chad Danforth After tearing his ACL at the U of Albuquerque, Chad found a passion for children's-book writing, encouraging kids to own their own hair care and strive for more bounce.</p>
 <p>Monique Coleman Coleman launched her online talk show <i>Gimme Mo'</i> in 2010 (the site is inactive) and finished fourth in the third season of <i>Dancing With the Stars</i>.</p>	 <p>Taylor McKessie The mathlete attended Yale and became a state-court judge back in New Mexico, where she immediately reallocated her alma mater's sports budget to its science lab.</p>
 <p>Lucas Grabeel The movie's most underrated star leads ABC Family's <i>Switched at Birth</i> and voices a woodpecker police officer on Disney Junior's <i>Sheriff Callie's Wild West</i>.</p>	 <p>Ryan Evans Still unsure of his sexual identity, Ryan married an aesthetician and vented his theatrical energy into a one-man show <i>The Tampa Bay Inquirer</i> called "90 minutes."</p>

HIT THE FLOOR

NEW SEASON
JAN 18 9|8c VH1

Here's your cheat sheet for everything you need to know to get in the game for Season 3. You can also catch up on the entire first two seasons on VH1.com and the VH1 App starting January 4.



N+N



Is Network Television Stuck In a Talent Drought?

Peak TV may be great for viewers, but it's leaving networks high and dry as they struggle to lure the best writers and actors away from the freedom of cable and streaming. **By Lynette Rice**

FX CEO JOHN LANDGRAF didn't exactly endear himself to competitors last summer when he publicly complained there was too much TV on the air. (Everybody thought he was making excuses for why *The Bastard Executioner* couldn't attract attention, much less viewers.) But they aren't pointing fingers at him anymore. Now knee-deep in the 2016-17 development season, execs at broadcast networks are privately worried about the dwindling talent pool in front of and behind the camera since streaming services like Netflix are just as willing as cable networks to pay actors and creators highly competitive fees for original fare. "All the broadcast nets struggle with being the low man on the totem pole," laments an exec at one of the Big Four. "Scripts go to Showtime, then to AMC, then they show up at the networks. We're left with what's left over." Adds a high-powered TV agent: "It's thin out there. It's hard to motivate someone to write an *NCIS*."

For TV fans, at least, the explosion of original dramas and comedies couldn't

be better. FX recently announced that the number of scripted series in 2015 increased by 9 percent over 2014 (409 versus 376) and 94 percent from 2009 (from 211). That just makes it harder for the Big Four to find the next hit, which is why studios with sister networks are getting ahead of the trend by making overall deals with überproducers like Ryan Murphy (*American Horror Story*) and Greg Berlanti (*Arrow*). In the meantime, execs continue to think—and hope—that there's plenty of hungry talent out there, and that some unknown writer is sitting on the next *Good Wife* while some ingenue is poised to be the next Kerry Washington. Says another Big Four insider, "While some want to do high-minded artsy stuff, there are still an awful lot of people who like the idea of doing 22 episodes for network TV." From his lips...

Related Lovers Exes Enemies Staff Players Dancers

ILLUSTRATION BY ULISES FARINAS

*The #1 scripted show of the summer returns.**

HIT THE FLOOR

JAN 18  **VH1**

This season, everyone's out of bounds



Rachel Bloom's *Crazy* Success

The 28-year-old has won raves as a singing lawyer whose love trumps logic on The CW's ***Crazy Ex-Girlfriend***. Bloom recalls the moments and mentors on her journey from musical-theater geek to, well, Golden Globe-nominated musical-theater geek. (The Globes air Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. on NBC.) **By Marc Snetiker**



SINGIN' IN THE LIVING ROOM

Growing up in Manhattan Beach, Calif., Bloom says her earliest teachers were her mother, a pianist, and her grandfather, a theater director and stand-up. "The first song I learned was 'Dream of You' from *Singin' in the Rain*," Bloom says. "In home videos you see my gramps going, 'Good, Rachel, do it again.' I realized now that he was stage-parenting me!"

STEPPING INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

Two moments would prove pivotal: A fifth-grade talent show during which she

first realized she was funny and an eighth-grade theater class in which she landed the lead in *Guys and Dolls*. "That single event unwittingly put me back on the road," she says. "I was depressed. I had anxiety. That was the first time people en masse appreciated me for my talent."

GRADUATING TO THE INTERNET

As a theater major at NYU, Bloom joined the comedy group Hammerkatz and learned sketch writing. "I suddenly saw the man behind the curtain with a lot of art and came to the conclusion that I wanted to be writing my own work," she says. Bloom moved to L.A. and, inspired by her now-husband Dan Gregor's comedic success, she created the 2010 music video "F--- Me, Ray Bradbury." It

attracted more than 2.8 million views, and earned her an agent and staff writing gigs on shows like *Robot Chicken*. She's especially grateful to series creators Seth Green and Matthew Seinerich for believing in her. "They kept hiring me back and have been really supportive," she says.

▲
On *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*



PREPARING FOR SHOWTIME

Her videos also caught the eye of Aline Brosh McKenna, the *Devil Wears Prada* screenwriter, who enlisted her to help create a musical TV series. The duo spent two and a half years developing *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, first as a half-hour Showtime pilot and then as an hour-long CW comedy. In addition to starring, Bloom is an EP. "I'll be in actor mode until I have a note, and it's like my voice drops and I subconsciously put on the boss pants," she says.

NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION

In her free time, Bloom tries to meet as many friends-of-friends as possible and pay her good fortune forward with advice and mentorship. "I used to think there was some secret password to the clubhouse of success that everyone knew," she says. "But it's really just being a decent person and hard work."

PAVE THE WAY

Hollywood's leading women on the people who inspired them



**THE SHAPE OF
THINGS TO COVET.**



The heart and mind have never been more connected. With a finely sculpted exterior, dramatic design, exceptional efficiency and advanced technology, the all-new 2016 Chevrolet Malibu commands attention in ways you never expected.

**THE ALL-NEW 2016
CHEVROLET MALIBU**

FIND *NEW* ROADS[®]

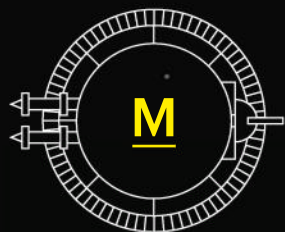
CHEVROLET



Pop Matters

THE MEANING OF REY

The hero of **Star Wars: The Force Awakens** doesn't just shatter centuries of sexist stereotypes, she could become the defining character for a generation. *By Nicole Sperling*



MY DAUGHTERS, who are 10 and 12, have never been that into the *Star Wars* franchise. Princess Leia and her braided buns—and Padme Amidala with her ceremonial headdresses—didn't interest them, even when their brother was busy snapping together the LEGO *Millennium Falcon*. But after I saw the *The Force Awakens*, I insisted that all three of them come with me to see it again because of one character: Rey.

Played by 23-year-old newcomer Daisy Ridley, Rey is many things: a survivor, a scavenger, an isolated figure searching for community, a pilot, a mechanic, a warrior... and a girl. Her femininity isn't a weakness, and it isn't a strength. In fact, it isn't a thing at all. Not only is that remarkable for a female movie character, it's revolutionary.

When we first meet Rey, we are introduced to her loneliness, her resourcefulness, her patience. We also immediately discover her goodness, especially when—major spoilers ahead—she refuses to give up BB-8 for a mountain of food rations that will keep her from starving. But it isn't until she meets Finn (John Boyega) that we get to relish watching her defy gender stereotypes. Within minutes of screen time, she disarms Finn with her spear, hides them both from stormtroopers, rescues *him*—no more hand-holding!—and flies the *Millennium Falcon*. Just like that, Finn is forced to abandon those quaint traditional gender-role ideas that were programmed into him since birth by the dictatorial First Order. (If only Earth could adapt as quickly.)

Rey proves to be as smart and as daring as Han Solo, though with a layer of deep sadness that he never possessed (until this episode). But it's Kylo Ren who discovers how powerful she is, that she is his superior both

mentally and physically, and it scares him. (She's also much less prone to fits of rage, which has its benefits.) In Ren's last-ditch effort to lure her to the dark side, we feel his desperation at being out-matched. Their final battle, in the snow, is all about good and evil. It's never about physical strength, and it's never about gender. Did anyone in the audience doubt for a second that she could defeat him? That she wasn't capable? Now *that's* radical, and my girls felt it immediately.

"A girl Jedi!" my 10-year-old whispered to me. "Finally!"

My 12-year-old was far more interested in analyzing Rey's look. Her beige tunic and relaxed pants and the muslin wraps around her arms—all perfectly practical for the life of a desert dweller—are destined to become iconic. Girls have been dressing up as Princess Leia for 40 years in an attempt to emulate the sole female *Star Wars* character who mattered, but Rey's appearance helps compensate for the hair buns, the white

ELIEN DORMAN/© 2015 LUCASFILM LTD.



Daisy Ridley as Rey on the set of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*



REY'S FEMININITY ISN'T A WEAKNESS OR A STRENGTH. IN FACT, IT ISN'T A THING AT ALL. FOR A FEMALE MOVIE CHARACTER, THAT'S REVOLUTIONARY."

gown, and that awful copper bikini. Her outfit does not sexualize her, and her hair—already nicknamed the Three Knobs—is simple, realistic, and messy. “All the girls are going to want their hair like hers,” my daughter said. Fine by me. Unlike the Girl on Fire, *Hunger Games*’ Katniss Everdeen, it doesn’t require an entire glam squad—or the fear of impending death—to achieve it.

Leaving the theater, my girls felt as empowered as their brother usually does after seeing one of the many blockbusters built for him. They never commented on how pretty Rey is. They never had to flinch because Rey was a sexual object to some man in power. They just felt strong. Equal. Imagine how the film will feel to girls in parts of the world where women are not allowed control over their own bodies or hearts or minds. Imagine a generation, of both sexes, growing up believing that girls are powerful. Imagine the force of a billion girls realizing that, one day, they can rule the galaxy. ♦

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THE



GET READY FOR THE BEST YEAR EVER. **BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH** WILL MAKE MAGIC, **ZAC EFRON** WILL BE YOUR NEIGHBOR (AGAIN), **BRAN'S** BACK ON **GAME OF THRONES**, **OUTLANDER** MOVES TO PARIS, AND **RYAN REYNOLDS** GOES SHIRTLESS. PLUS, JANUARY IS ALL ABOUT YOU: **IT'S JANUARY!** AND WE'VE GOT YOUR FIRST LOOK AT IT ALL.

ISSUE

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STRANGE



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ON THE SET OF MARVEL'S TRIPPIEST MOVIE YET, **BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH** CONJURES THE COSMIC



Benedict
Cumberbatch
photographed
on Nov. 30,
2015, in Surrey,
England

SUPERHERO KNOWN AS THE SORCERER SUPREME—AND UNLOCKS THE SECRET OF HIS OWN POWER.

By **CLARK COLLIS** @ClarkCollis
Photographs by **MICHAEL MULLER** Typography by **ANDREAS LEONIDOU**



ON A SOUNDSTAGE IN THE LONDON SUBURBS, BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH is getting in Tilda Swinton's face. "I don't believe in fairy tales about chakras or energy or the power of belief," a bearded and bedraggled Cumberbatch growls. "There is no such thing as a spirit! We are made of matter and nothing more!" The *Sherlock* star is playing Stephen Strange, a brilliant, arrogant New York surgeon whose hands are badly damaged in a car accident. Desperate to heal his extremities, he travels to Kathmandu, Nepal, in the hope of meeting Swinton's mysterious character, the Ancient One.

In comic-book lore, the sorcerer assists the doctor as he transforms into a mystically powered superhero, schooling him about the array of alternative dimensions that make up Marvel's so-called "multiverse." However, in *Doctor Strange*, from director Scott Derrickson (*Sinister*), their introductory powwow at the Ancient One's pagoda rapidly turns unpleasant as Strange discovers that the guidance on offer is more metaphysical than medical. "Free your mind, and the rest will follow," the pale-robed guru coolly advises.

STRANGE BEGINNINGS

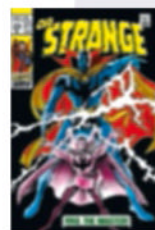
A GUIDE TO THE DOCTOR'S COMIC-BOOK EVOLUTION.
BY CLARK COLLIS



Doctor Strange was created by artist Steve Ditko and Marvel editor Stan Lee and **debuted in issue #110 of the anthology comic *Strange Tales* (July 1963).** That first adventure also featured the surgeon-turned-superhero's magical amulet, later to be identified as the Eye of Agamotto; his temple-dwelling mentor, the Ancient One; and Strange's Greenwich Village abode, the Sanctum Sanctorum.



In 1968, Marvel **rebranded *Strange Tales* as a showcase for the character—**hence the first comic to be named after the Sorcerer Supreme is technically, and confusingly, *Doctor Strange Vol. 1* #169.



In *Dr. Strange* #177, **our distinctively badger-haired hero received a blue-bodysuit-and-mask makeover—**coincidentally or not, the comic was canceled just six issues later.

That advice might also be useful for audiences. *Doctor Strange*, which arrives in theaters Nov. 4, 2016, is a more experimental kind of Marvel blockbuster than anything in the studio's *Avengers* oeuvre. The Doctor's universe-hopping adventures date back to the 1960s, when artist Steve Ditko and writer-editor Stan Lee created him as a far-out departure from the more earthbound tales of other superheroes, and this film, too, is designed to take Marvel in a more "cosmic" direction. "*Strange* is an entry point to an even stranger—no pun intended—section of the comic books, which involves the supernatural, which involves parallel dimensions," says Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige. "We gave audiences a teeny-tiny taste of it at the end of *Ant-Man*, when he goes into the quantum realm.... That's the tip of the iceberg for what we go through in this movie."

As to what precisely awaits us on the other side, that's a question for the ages—or at least this fall. Marvel is keeping secrets about the plot locked up tighter than Strange's magically protected New York brownstone, the Sanctum Sanctorum. *Doctor Strange* only began production in

Marvel launched another Dr. Strange comic in 1974, and this time the title would last until 1987. The initial part of the run was penned by Steve Englehart, who conceived some adventures while on LSD. Notably out-there plotlines include one in which a 31st-century sorcerer travels back in time and becomes God.



The first Dr. Strange movie was actually an abortive TV pilot that CBS aired in 1978.

Small-screen regular Peter Hooten headed a cast that also boasted John Mills and future *Arrested Development* boozehound Jessica Walter.



Marvel published a third solo comic, *Doctor Strange: Sorcerer Supreme*, from 1988 to 1996.

Strange has also worked with various superhero groups over the years, including the Fantastic Four, the X-Men, and the New Avengers.



In October 2015, the sorcerer was once again gifted his own title, *Doctor Strange*, penned by *Thor* and *Scalped* writer Jason Aaron.



November, when Cumberbatch & Co. spent four days shooting exteriors in Nepal, before landing at the movie's U.K. home base, Longcross Film Studios. They'll visit Hong Kong and Manhattan before they wrap in March, but right now, it's still early days. So early that EW's cover shoot marked one of the first occasions Cumberbatch had worn Strange's cloaked costume. The actor even used the opportunity as something of an R&D session for his spell-casting gesticulations. "These gestures are ways of creating the magic," says Cumberbatch, 39. "It's a beautiful thing, it's balletic, it's very dynamic. And once the boys in the back room get to work on it, there's going to be crazy s--- going on."

Crazy s--- has been a part of Strange's retina-blasting world since he emerged in July 1963 (see sidebar) and captivated the counterculture with his New Age necromancy and a powerful amulet known as the Eye of Agamotto. In 1968, Tom Wolfe name-checked the character in his New Journalism classic *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*. That same year, the Sorcerer Supreme, as he became known, could be seen on the cover of Pink Floyd's album *A Saucerful of Secrets* (if you looked carefully, man!).

He's remained a favorite throughout the decades, and—in a cinematic world where even the Guardians of the Galaxy have become a box office phenomenon—one ripe for the big-screen treatment. Matthew McConaughey and Jake Gyllenhaal, among others, were rumored to be in the running for Strange, but Cumberbatch, who landed the role in December 2014, wasn't familiar with the character, despite his facility for playing gifted, somewhat egotistical men (or dragons, if you count the *Hobbit* movies). Becoming a superhero, he says, was "not something that I had on my bucket list." What intrigued him was the film's marriage of the scientific and the esoteric, which he connected to an experience from his own youth. At 19, Cumberbatch had given English lessons to Tibetan monks in West Bengal in northeast India. "They taught me reams, fathoms more than I could possibly begin to teach them," he says. "I became interested in the meeting point between Western logic and Eastern mysticism."

While that meeting point is conveyed in the film, the script deviates in pivotal ways from the comic book. Most notably, the comics have depicted the Ancient One as a Tibetan man. Swinton, needless to say, is neither. Then again, there seems to be some doubt as to whether Swinton's character is female. "I think it's all in the eye of the beholder," the actress says. "You know, your gender comes out of the mouth of the person who's addressing you." (Just process

A CAST OF SECRETS

WHO'S WHO IN THE DOCTOR'S WEIRD UNIVERSE.

BY CLARK COLLIS



TILDA SWINTON

THE ANCIENT ONE

An androgynous Kathmandu-dwelling sorcerer who introduces Doctor Strange to the wonders of the "multiverse," among other mystical matters.



CHIWETEL EJIOFOR

KARL MORDO

A disciple of the Ancient One who brings Strange to his mistress (er, master?).



RACHEL McADAMS

NAME UNKNOWN

The actress (*Spotlight*) is a fellow New York surgeon, and Strange's principal connection to humanity once he gains magical powers.



MADS MIKKELSEN

NAME UNKNOWN

The *Hannibal* star plays the film's main villain, a sorcerer who believes the secret to immortality lies in other dimensions.



(Concept art, from top)

TOP SECRET
Inside the New York Sanctum Sanctorum of Doctor Strange

FAR-OUT
Another dimension, as depicted in the film

SICK DOCTOR
Stephen Strange in recovery after his accident

that idea for a moment.) Another possible switch-up? One of Strange's comic enemies is the sorcerer Karl Mordo. Chiwetel Ejiofor (*12 Years a Slave*) scored the role, but no one will confirm his actual baddie-ness. "He's a complex character that I don't think can be nailed down either way," Ejiofor says. Uh-huh. Right.

Meanwhile, the primary villain will be played by Mads Mikkelsen (late of TV's *Hannibal*). The filmmakers aren't ready to divulge his identity just yet, but they're happy to provide a few clues. "There are scary things in these other dimensions, and the sorcerers protect us from all of these things that are lurking," Feige says. "Mads' character breaks off into his own sect and believes that the Ancient One is just protecting her own power base and that the world may be better off if we were to allow some of these other things through." Another mystery: the character played by Rachel McAdams. She's a New York surgeon—might she also be a love interest for the doc? "I hit on her more than the Ancient One," Cumberbatch says, smiling. "Let's put it that way."

Even if he doesn't get the girl, Strange will be blessed with an abracadabra arsenal that could make even Loki jealous. "He has a Cloak of Levitation that allows him to fly," Feige says. "The Eye of Agamotto can manipulate probabilities, which is another way of saying 'screw around with time.' He can create mandalas of light as shields and whips. He can create portals to go to other places around the world." It's not just hocus-pocus, either. "There's all sorts of craziness," Cumberbatch says. "Falling, flying, jumping, fighting, punching, getting punched. It's really rough-and-tumble."

Things get physical back on set after Strange jabs a finger at the Ancient One and she (he?), like some elfin Bruce Lee, grabs his wrist and twists his arm. She then extends her other arm, palm outward, and, without touching him, sends Strange stumbling backward—and into a heady sequence that, behind the scenes, has been dubbed the "Magical Mystery Tour." If that sounds kind of out-there for a superhero movie, you're not wrong. "I'm perpetually

awestruck that I'm getting to make this movie," director Derrickson says. "I keep waiting for the knock on the door when somebody says, 'This movie's too weird, we can't make this.'"

On the contrary. Feige says the comics' amazing psychedelic style is a real inspiration. "That's going to set this movie apart from any of the other Marvel movies," he says. "And hopefully from any other movie ever." Now they just need to cast the spell. ♦

MOVIE





Carla Gallo, Ike Barinholtz, Zac Efron, Seth Rogen, and Rose Byrne

TOTALLY GREEKING OUT (AGAIN!)

SETH ROGEN AND **ROSE BYRNE**

BATTLE WITH THE BAD GIRLS OF SORORITY ROW IN *NEIGHBORS 2*, SUMMER'S MOST INAPPROPRIATE SEQUEL. BY KEITH STASKIEWICZ

> MAY 20
> COMEDY

▶▶▶ "I COULD DO A TED talk on how to throw a fake party," says director Nicholas Stoller. "I've

thrown at least 20 times more fake parties than real parties, and my real parties are so much worse." Stoller had plenty of revelry to feign for this sequel to 2014's *Neighbors*, which sees Seth Rogen and Rose Byrne reprising their roles as self-conscious thirtysomething couple Mac and Kelly Radner. This time around, they are dealing with the sudden appearance of a sorority on their block—pledges include Chloë Grace Moretz and Selena Gomez—and the return of Zac Efron's fraternity adversary, Teddy Sanders. "With the sorority girls, it's like a glimpse into their daughter's future, and it terrifies them," Byrne says. Among the barn burners created for the film are a disorienting hall-of-mirrors rave and a down-and-dirty *Mad Max*-inspired tailgate. "That one was both a lot of fun and a nightmare to shoot," Rogen says. "Anytime I'm shirtless next to Zac Efron for really long periods, it even gets to me eventually."



Keegan-Michael Key, Jordan Peele, and Keanu

KEANU

KEY AND PEELE TAKE ON RACE, MASCULINITY, AND ONE REALLY CUTE KITTY IN A SHOUT-OUT TO A CERTAIN *MATRIX* STAR. BY CHRIS LEE

> APRIL 29
> COMEDY

▶▶▶ LET'S GET THIS out of the way: While the action comedy *Keanu* pays homage to

The Matrix's main man, it's not a movie about Keanu Reeves. Starring Jordan Peele and Keegan-Michael Key—the Comedy Central sketch sensations behind the recently ended *Key & Peele*—the film follows two “blerds” (read: black nerds) who impersonate gangstas and infiltrate a drug cartel to rescue a stolen cat (named Keanu). “This entire movie was basically the most expensive adorable-kitten video of all time,” jokes Peele, who wrote *Keanu* with *Key & Peele* alum Alex Rubens. “Overall it’s meant to satirize how pop culture paints masculinity and what it means to be African-American—and how many of us don’t fit into the mold expected of us.” Posing as assassins, the characters mimic the badass posturing of so many rap videos and Mob movies. “They’re doing these impersonations on the fly, figuring it out as they go along,” says Key. “They’re about as white as black people can be. The game they infiltrate is as black as black people can be.” As Reeves himself might say, Whoa.



CONCEPT ART

INSIDE THE NEW BATCAVE

BY KEITH STASKIEWICZ

BAT



(Above)
Concept art
for the Batcave;
(left) Ben
Affleck and
Jeremy Irons



A man's home is his castle, but Wayne Manor was never really Batman's home. In *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, the hero (Ben Affleck) has let his dynastic estate fall into disrepair, watching it crumble to ruins as

surely and completely as its owner's sense of optimism. Rest assured, however, the Batcave remains as well-equipped and well-appointed as ever. After all, you want your tech to be up-to-date if you're keeping the company of gods. "[Batman] represents human beings, mortal men," Affleck says. "In a world of Flashes and

Aquamen and Superman, there needs to be that guy. It's interesting that he became the leader of the Justice League in the books—I'm not sure how that'll play out here—but his humanity is also an asset."

The Batcave comes outfitted with another significant asset: a brand-new Alfred. Bruce Wayne's butler and aide-de-camp (Jeremy Irons) won't just be serving tea and drily chiding his employer from the sidelines. "Alfred is a lot more hands-on in our film than he has previously been," Irons says. "He's a bit of a grease monkey, and he's very involved

> MARCH 25
> ACTION

in the decisions Bruce makes." Of course, at the end of the day it's just two weary men in a bunker going up against the world's most powerful superhero. So, you know, good luck with that.

MAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

EMILY BLUNT BOARDS A DEADLY MYSTERY IN THE BIG-SCREEN ADAPTATION OF THE BLOCKBUSTER BEST-SELLER. BY ISABELLA BIEDENHARN

> OCT. 7
> THRILLER

▶▶▶ “YOU CAN’T AVOID THE PUNS with this movie—she’s a train wreck,” director Tate Taylor says of Rachel Watson, the unemployed alcoholic at the center of his new thriller, *The Girl on the Train*. Based on Paula Hawkins’ best-selling novel, the film stars Emily Blunt as the emotionally damaged Rachel, who develops a voyeuristic

obsession with a couple—whom she dubs Jason and Jess (Luke Evans and Hayley Bennett)—that she spies during her daily commute, a journey that just so happens to take her past the home her ex-husband (Justin Theroux) shares with his new wife (Rebecca Ferguson). ¶ Rachel has dreamed up an elaborate fantasy life for “Jason and Jess,” but her illusions are shattered when she accidentally witnesses an act of betrayal, followed shortly thereafter by the young woman’s disappearance. Rachel inserts herself into the investigation, but her motives are murky. “Rachel does things that we all think, and we all wish we could do,” says Taylor (*The Help*). ¶ Although *Gone Girl* comparisons are inevitable—yes, it’s a female-powered mystery anchored by an unreliable narrator adapted from a wildly popular book—Rachel has little in common with Amy Dunne. She’s grappling



(Above)
Rebecca
Ferguson
and Justin
Theroux;
(right and
top right)
Emily Blunt



not only with her addiction but also with a profound sense of isolation. While the book is set in and around London, the film shifts the location to Manhattan and its tranquil suburbs. Rachel is still a Brit, though. “It adds another layer of loneliness,” Taylor says. “She’s trying to reclaim or redefine herself, and yet she’s not in her native land.”



KUNG FU PANDA 3

JACK BLACK RETURNS AS THE ROLY-POLY MARTIAL ARTIST WHO FINDS FAMILY AND A SERIOUS NEW FOE. BY C. MOLLY SMITH

▶▶▶ Skadoosh! In *Kung Fu Panda 3*, Dragon Warrior Po (Jack Black) finally reunites with his long-lost father, Li (Bryan Cranston). That

> JAN. 29
> FAMILY

doesn't mean that all is well in the third installment of the popular animated film series, however. A supernatural enemy, a bull named Kai (J.K. Simmons), threatens all of China, and it's up to Po to train a new class of pandas to stop him. But the adventure also brings up some bigger questions for the unlikely hero—who's never spent time as an adult with other pandas—about his place in the animal kingdom. “Po will be faced with the ultimate question, which is ‘Who am I?’” explains Alessandro Carloni, who directed *Kung Fu Panda 3* with Jennifer Yuh Nelson. “And what better place to ask himself that question than a place surrounded by people where he can really belong—or can he? Does he fit, does he not fit?” ¶ Returning characters include Crane (David Cross), Viper (Lucy Liu), Mantis (Seth Rogen), Monkey (Jackie Chan), Tigress (Angelina Jolie), and Master Shifu (Dustin Hoffman), while Kate Hudson joins the series as a panda named Mei Mei.

Mr. Ping (James Hong) and Po (Jack Black)



THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN: BARRY WETCHER (3); KUNG FU PANDA 3: DREAMWORKS ANIMATION



MONEY MONSTER

GEORGE CLOONEY IS A TV PERSONALITY UNDER THREAT AND **JULIA ROBERTS** IS THE PRODUCER TRYING TO SAVE HIM IN THE GRIPPING NEW FILM FROM DIRECTOR **JODIE FOSTER**. BY NICOLE SPERLING

> MAY 13
> THRILLER

on a sure-thing fund that's failed, the young man (*Unbroken*'s Jack O'Connell) hijacks a live broadcast, takes Gates hostage, and demands answers before the trading day ends. From the control booth, Gates' formidable producer (Julia Roberts) tries to simultaneously save his life and manage the skyrocketing media frenzy. ¶ *Money Monster* has been a years-in-the-making passion project for director Jodie Foster, who insists that while the topical story line taps into contemporary outrage over economic injustice, it's about something more. "The film is not a polemic," she says. "It's really about the brotherhood that forms between these two men who thought they were on opposite sides, who hated each other, until they realize they're both fighting for the same thing." ¶ It also gave Foster

▶▶▶ IN THE NEW THRILLER *MONEY Monster*, George Clooney plays Lee Gates, a Jim Cramer-style financial guru who uses his whiz-bang television show to tout stocks to viewers who can't tell their bulls from their bears. But all bets are off once an angry investor turns up on set. Distraught over losing his family's life savings

ASSASSIN'S CREED

MICHAEL FASSBENDER GETS MERCENARY
AS A TIME-TRAVELING KILLER IN THE
VIDEOGAME ADAPTATION. BY CHRIS LEE

▶▶▶ In the megabudget adaptation of Ubisoft's titular videogame, Michael Fassbender plays Callum Lynch, a loner whose killer instinct

> DEC. 21
> ACTION

is awakened by a "memory travel" machine called the Animus. It beams him into the swashbuckling consciousness of an ancestor named Aguilar in 15th-century Spain, illuminating the ongoing war between a secret sect of master murderers—from which Lynch is descended—and a warring faction called the Templars. "Cal discovers not only his skills as an assassin but who he is," says director Justin Kurzel (2015's *Macbeth*, also starring Fassbender). "He's part of a lineage that stretches back hundreds of years, over generations. The game and our film play with the notion your soul and your blood live on forever." ¶ Fassbender, who fights alongside Ariane Labed as fellow assassin Maria, had never played *Assassin's Creed* before signing on as star and producer. "We're aiming for a very cinematic experience while respecting all the core elements of the game," he says. "But we really are breaking away from the videogame mold."

Ariane Labed and Michael Fassbender



a chance to work with Clooney, who is producing the film, and Roberts for the first time. The veteran actress was particularly struck by her leading lady's innate star power. "It's something chemical," she says. "She just sits in the chair and out it comes: It's so real, so genuine, so effortless. In this movie, she's got no makeup on, she's got her hair yanked up. She's practically wearing a sweatshirt and you can't take your eyes off of her... [This casting] was all a bit of a dream for us."

(Clockwise from left) George Clooney and director Jodie Foster on set; Julia Roberts; Clooney





Kate McKinnon, Kristen Wiig, Melissa McCarthy, and Leslie Jones photographed on Sept. 9, 2015, in Weymouth, Mass.



GHOSTBUSTERS

KRISTEN WIIG AND MELISSA MCCARTHY ARE ABOUT TO STRIKE FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF PARANORMAL PESTS EVERYWHERE IN THE ECTOPLASMIC EVENT OF THE SUMMER.

BY NICOLE SPERLING



Dead criminals from all eras of New York's underbelly past have returned to roost among the living in this *Ghostbusters* reboot. Pilgrims, old-timey sailors, Revolutionary War spirits, even a couple of zoot-suited gangsters are ready to take on four formidable female busters looking to rid the city of its phantasmic filth. In addition to facing down ectoplasmic felons, stars Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, and Leslie Jones have had to combat sexist social-media rants about why women can't possibly fight celluloid spirits as well as Dan Aykroyd and Bill Murray did back in 1984. So the pressure is on, both on screen and off. "If this doesn't work, we go back and lose our [right to] vote," McCarthy deadpans. "I'm talking pre-suffragette." Not likely. She, Wiig, and director Paul Feig ruled the box office in 2011 with *Bridesmaids*. Those Internet haters may be headed straight for the Ecto Containment Unit.

> JULY 15
> COMEDY

SULLY

CLINT EASTWOOD PILOTS THE TRUE-LIFE
TALE OF THE HEROIC CAPTAIN.
BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

▶▶▶ After US Airways flight 1549 fell out of the sky and landed in the Hudson River, there was still a harrowing survival story we didn't get to see. Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger was credited with saving the lives of all 155 people aboard the jet that plunged into the icy river on Jan. 15, 2009, but the upcoming Clint Eastwood-directed drama *Sully*, starring Tom Hanks as the real-life pilot, focuses on the way a hero is sometimes tested after the fact. "People saw the landing, but what followed is where the conflict is," Eastwood tells EW. "There was an investigation into his decision, and it was painting a picture that he had done the wrong thing, that he could have made it back to La Guardia or Teterboro. What happened behind closed doors is what most people don't know." Eastwood and Hanks both got to know the real Sullenberger during production. "I can see why he became such an iconic figure," the filmmaker says. "He's the kind of guy that can walk into a room and instill confidence that everything's under control."

> SEPT. 9
> DRAMA

Behind the scenes
with Tom Hanks
and director
Clint Eastwood



ON THE SET |

DEEPWATER HORIZON

IN THE REAL-WORLD DISASTER MOVIE, THE
EXPLOSION THAT CAUSED THE WORST OIL SPILL
IN U.S. HISTORY SENDS **MARK WAHLBERG**
FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE. BY JEFF LABRECQUE



On April 20, 2010,
41 miles off the Gulf
Coast of Louisiana, the
Deepwater Horizon oil
rig burst into a ball of
fire and sank beneath

Matt Smith
and Stanley
Tucci



THE CONJURING 2

THIS TIME, THE EXPERT GHOST HUNTERS HEAD FOR NOT-SO-MERRY OLD ENGLAND

▶▶▶ IN THIS FOLLOW-UP to 2013's horror hit *The Conjuring*, paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren (Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga) travel to 1977

> JUNE 10
> SUPER-NATURAL THRILLER

England to help single mom Peggy Hodgson and her four children, particularly daughter Janet (played by Madison Wolfe). "The haunting that afflicted the Hodgson family is probably one of the most documented paranormal cases in the world," says director James Wan, who visited the Enfield borough of London where the supernatural activity took place. Expect the new film to have a distinctive tone—and fashion sense. "I really wanted to reflect the era and the time," Wan says. "The IRA bombings, the rise of the punk movement, the rise of Thatcher..." Spooky. —DARREN FRANCHI



Madison Wolfe

(From top) Mark Wahlberg; director Peter Berg, Jeremy Sander, Dylan O'Brien, and Wahlberg

the waves. The ensuing environmental disaster would dominate headlines for months, overshadowing the deaths of 11 rig workers who perished in the explosion. *Lone Survivor* director Peter Berg reunited with star Mark Wahlberg to capture the brothers-in-arms heroics of the workers, including Mike Williams (Wahlberg), who escaped from the doomed rig. "Mark has that human touch that



makes him want to not be a movie star from a distance but to get dirty and roll up his sleeves and pay respect to real people," Berg says. BP, which leased the Horizon, paid billions in fines and didn't exactly welcome Hollywood scrutiny.

"We were getting a lot of doors shut in our face," says Berg, who filmed mostly on a 150-foot-long replica of the rig in a tank in New Orleans. "When you see the size of the oil industry [here], you realize what real power is, what real money is, and how this fuel truly drives the planet."

> SEPT. 30
> DRAMA

PATIENT ZERO

MATT SMITH STARS AS A SURVIVOR IN A WORLD RAVAGED BY A SUPERVIRUS

▶▶▶ This pandemic thriller, featuring former *Doctor Who* star Matt Smith, *Game of Thrones*' Natalie Dormer, and Stanley Tucci, sees humanity battling intelligent, adrenaline-fueled creatures born from a viral superstrain. But please don't use the Z-word. "The

> SEPT. 2
> ACTION-HORROR

great days of zombies are a little bit over," says director Stefan Ruzowitzky (*Deadfall*). "It's time for something new." Plus, the filmmaker says, "the infected," as they're called, are "much sexier" than the undead. And they have an agenda: leap-frogging people on the evolutionary ladder. "They have a lot of energy, they're fast, they're good-looking. Not those walking vegetables." Ouch. Your move, *The Walking Dead*. —OLIVER GETTELL

Emma Stone and
Ryan Gosling



RYAN GOSLING AND **EMMA STONE** BRING THEIR RIDICULOUS CHARM TO A LOS ANGELES LOVE STORY BETWEEN A MUSICIAN AND AN ACTRESS. BY **JOE MCGOVERN**

L A L A L A N D



The new film from *Whiplash* wunderkind Damien Chazelle takes place far away from the bloody drumsticks of a grueling New York music conservatory. *La La Land*, starring *Crazy, Stupid, Love* comrades Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling, is a musical set in modern-day L.A. The title is not intended as snark—as you can tell from this marvelously old-fashioned moment in the film,

where we see a musician (Gosling) and a struggling actress (Stone) express their blossoming love for each other via a Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers-inspired dance. “There’s an incredible romanticism in L.A. that you don’t always see when you’re stuck in traffic on the 405,” says Chazelle, who shot this scene during a September sunset in Griffith Park. “I wanted to make a big love letter to the city and focus on that

> JULY 15
> MUSICAL

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

EDDIE REDMAYNE MANAGES A MAGICAL MENAGERIE IN THE FIRST HARRY POTTER PREQUEL. BY JAMES HIBBERD

▶▶▶ FINDING AN ACTOR WITH THE RIGHT MIX OF QUALITIES to play Newt Scamander in *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* was even tougher than concocting one of Snape's potions. Producer David Heyman and director David Yates, who worked together on the final four Harry Potter films, needed a leading man for this prequel with enough charisma to play the globe-trotting 1920s magizoologist who carries with him a weathered case of creatures, but he knew a big name might have too much, well, baggage to inhabit the role. Enter Eddie Redmayne, fresh from his Oscar win for *The Theory of Everything*. "He's good at playing outsiders; Newt is a bit of an eccentric, and we felt Eddie could do that with truth," Heyman explains. Plus, Redmayne—who joins forces in the film with Katherine Waterston (*Steve Jobs*) and theater and TV vet Dan Fogler—was just the right amount of handsome. "He's good-looking, but not too much so," Heyman says. "You can believe he's returned from distant lands. Eddie feels like he could be from another time."

> NOV. 18
> FANTASY-ADVENTURE

push and pull that all young artists experience between dreams and reality, which old Hollywood musicals are so good at expressing." Chazelle, 30, was himself a stymied young artist while writing *La La Land*—he shelved the script a few years ago and vented his frustration by making *Whiplash*. "The two movies couldn't be more different tonally," he says. "But they're both about reconciling your dreams with the need to be human. *La La Land* is just much less angry about it."



Dan Fogler,
Eddie Redmayne,
and Katherine
Waterston



DEADPOOL

RYAN REYNOLDS IS A FOULMOUTHED SUPER-ANTIHERO OUT FOR REVENGE AGAINST THE VILLAIN AJAX. BY JOE MCGOVERN



The setting is the flight deck of a crashed airship, and there's a brawl on board that has turned the old wreck into a combat zone. The guy in the red mask is Deadpool (Ryan Reynolds), who is employing his superhuman abilities—and katana swords named Bea and Arthur—against the ax-wielding Ajax (Ed Skrein), a sadistic lab assistant who ruined his life.

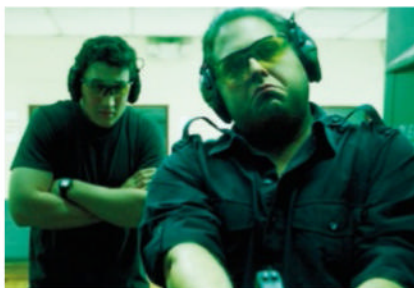
Based on the libertine Marvel character, *Deadpool* promises to be a dynamic collision between comic-book action and lewd

R-rated humor. Anticipation is high, thanks in part to footage that broke out at last year's San Diego Comic-Con showing a debauched semi-hero many fans had never seen before. "Deadpool is nothing but tangents," director Tim Miller says, "and our attitude was just 'Let's embrace him.'" And a tight embrace it was, explains Reynolds, who'd dreamed of playing this unfiltered version of the mouthy mercenary for more than a decade. "[The set]

was an alternate-joke factory," he says. "For one joke in the movie we wrote 16 versions."

The climactic fight scene, however, was no laughing matter. "Ryan's like Muhammad Ali, dancing around, whispering in my ear," Skrein says. "And I'm George Foreman. Every blow is like a haymaker and I just want to take his head off." Reynolds describes Deadpool as a lean little jackal—though he had second thoughts upon encountering Skrein on set. "Ed got yoked for the movie," he says. "I saw his arms and got pretty upset at myself for not working out harder."

> FEB. 12
> ACTION-ADVENTURE

Miles
Teller and
Jonah Hill

UNTITLED TODD PHILLIPS PROJECT

JONAH HILL AND MILES TELLER TEAM UP

▶▶▶ THE HANGOVER DIRECTOR TODD Phillips fires up Jonah Hill and Miles Teller for the story of two guys and a government arms contract. What could possibly go

wrong? ¶ “It is one of the craziest movies I’ve ever been in—in a *great* way,” Hill says. “And it’s all true.” Based on a 2011 *Rolling Stone* article, the film follows two young Miami men (Hill and Teller) who land a Pentagon contract to supply arms to Afghan forces. Hill’s character’s real-world counterpart, Efraim Diveroli—who pled guilty to conspiracy and was sentenced to four years in federal prison—declined to meet with the actor. “I’m used to it,” says Hill, who has portrayed real-life figures before in such films as *Moneyball* and *The Wolf of Wall Street*. “If a person is aggressively against me playing them, it’s probably a good sign.” —SARA VILKOMERSON

> AUG. 19
> ACTION
COMEDY

(Clockwise
from top) Ryan
Reynolds and Ed
Skrein; Reynolds;
Gina Carano



Anna Kendrick and Ben Affleck



THE ACCOUNTANT

ANNA KENDRICK AND BEN AFFLECK STAR IN A TALE OF MONEY AND CORRUPTION

> OCT. 7
> THRILLER

Anna Kendrick plays a bookish clerk who stumbles upon high-level financial treachery at a robotics company in *The Accountant*, the latest from *Warrior* filmmaker Gavin O'Connor. “I don’t normally play the romantic leading lady,” the *Pitch Perfect* actress admits of her role as accidental whistle-blower Dana, who, despite matching wits with Ben Affleck’s math savant, is a little more square than her millennial portrayal. “I based her on my mom,” says the 30-year-old. “She’s an accountant, so I actually had her go through the script with me and explain the math.” Not a bad ROI, right? —MARC SNETIKER

FINDING DORY

MEET THE *NEMO* SEQUEL'S
HUGE NEW STARS.

BY NINA TERRERO



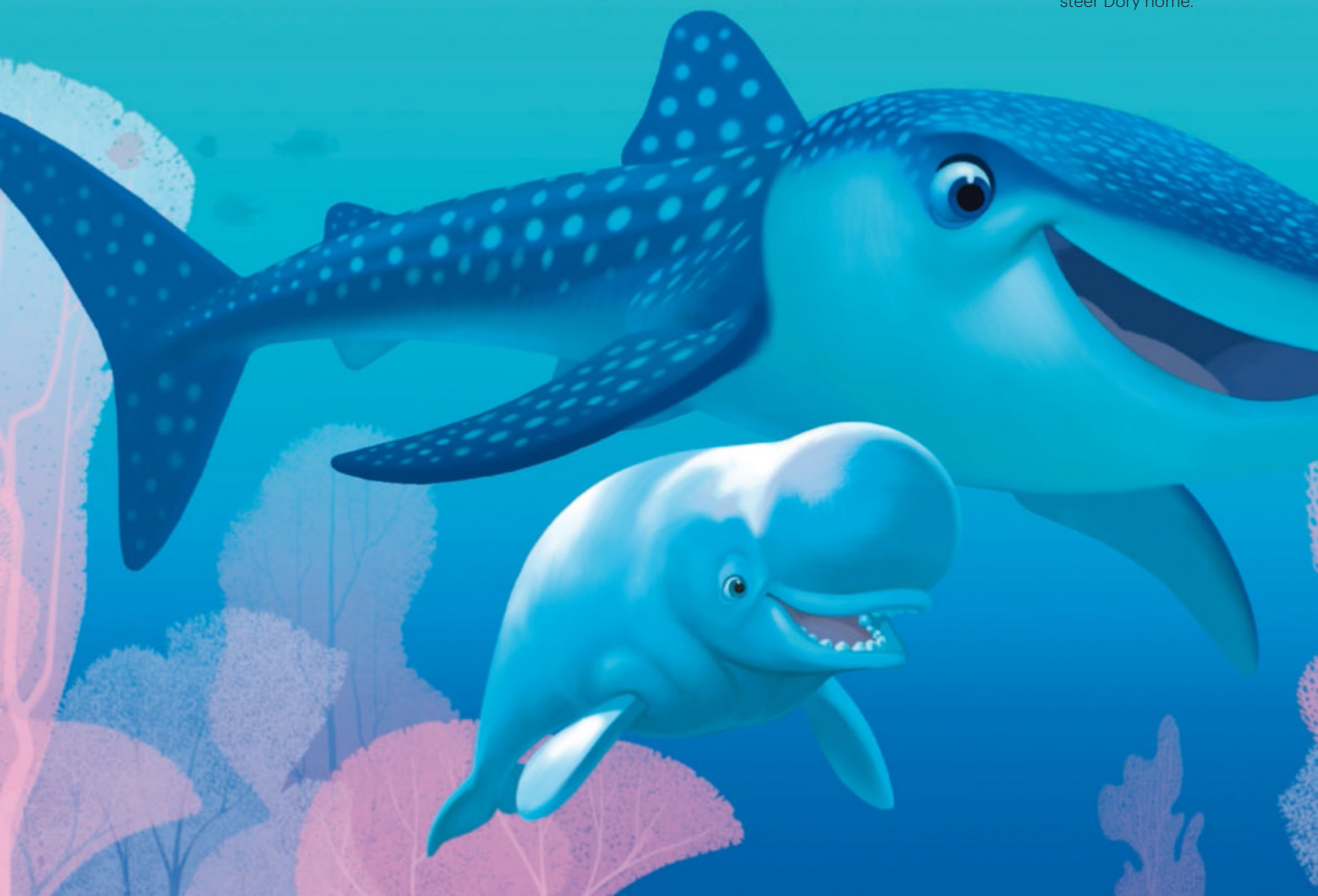
Modern Family star Ty Burrell can still recall how he felt the first time he saw Pixar's Oscar-winning 2003 underwater classic *Finding Nemo*. "It's hard to find that

balance of very sweet, very funny, and great adventure in a story," he says. Yet that's precisely what *Nemo* director Andrew Stanton is hoping to recapture. *Finding Dory* sees the forgetful blue tang (voiced again by Ellen DeGeneres) on a mission to locate her long-lost family. Along the way, she

visits a marine-life facility where she meets Burrell's snub-nosed beluga whale, Bailey, and his pal Destiny, a whale shark voiced by *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* actress Kaitlin Olson. "My character isn't great at his own sonar capability, and Destiny has trouble swimming straight,"

> JUNE 17
> COMEDY

Burrell explains. Adds Olson: "We totally get on each other's nerves." Together, the duo—seen here for the first time—play an important role in reuniting Dory with her loved ones. Here's hoping that with some teamwork, they can steer Dory home.



(Clockwise from bottom) Bailey (Ty Burrell),
Destiny (Kaitlin Olson), and Dory (Ellen DeGeneres)

Matt
Damon



UNTITLED BOURNE FILM

MATT DAMON REUNITES WITH DIRECTOR PAUL GREENGRASS TO BRING BACK THEIR "DARK AND TORTURED" SPY

> JULY 29
> ACTION
THRILLER

▶▶▶ The world has changed drastically in the eight years since Matt Damon last appeared as Jason Bourne on the big screen. "There's been the financial collapse, the great recession, all these issues of cyberwarfare and civil liberties," says

Damon, who agreed to resurrect his superspy for returning director Paul Greengrass. (Neither was involved in the 2012 spin-off starring Jeremy Renner.) The tumultuous present serves as the backdrop for this story, in which Bourne resumes his quest for answers about his past. "We find him in a dark and tortured place," says the actor, who's also producing. Joining the action are Alicia Vikander (*The Danish Girl*) as a cyberspecialist and Tommy Lee Jones as an old-school CIA agent. —NINA TERRERO

Kristen Bell and Melissa McCarthy



THE BOSS

MELISSA MCCARTHY IS A SELF-OBSSESSED EX-CON WHO ATTEMPTS A COMEBACK

> APRIL 8
> COMEDY

longtime friend Steve Mallory, finds Darnell sent to prison for insider trading. Upon release, she tries to claw her way back to the top via a Girl Scout-type troop, the Dandelions. "We have, like, a *Gangs of New York* brutal street fight with children," McCarthy says with a laugh. "Flawed characters are the most fun to play." —SARA VILKOMERSON

NEW CHARACTER

THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE

BLAKE SHELTON IS A PIG—AND SINGS!—IN THE VIDEOGAME FILM. BY KEITH STASKIEWICZ

►►► Many songwriters live by the maxim “Write what you know,” so when Blake Shelton was tasked with coming up with a tune for *The Angry Birds Movie*, he hit a road-block. “I can write things about myself and my life,” says the country singer and coach on NBC’s hit singing competition *The Voice*. “But I don’t have a whole lot of experience being shot out of a slingshot at pigs.” Shelton plays one of those pigs in the film, lending his voice to an especially country-fried pork chop named Earl, seen here for the first time. “They kept saying, ‘More country!’” Shelton says. “I felt like I was doing a voice-over for *Dukes of Hazzard*.” The animated film, which also features the voices of Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, and Danny McBride, is based on the immensely popular game, one that Shelton played a lot before he was hired to write a song about it. “I wish I had a dollar for every minute I lost playing that freaking game, you know?” he says. “Well, I guess I do now.”

> MAY 20
> COMEDY

Ross
(Tony Hale),
Stella (Kate
McKinnon),
Photog (Tituss
Burgess),
and Earl (Blake
Shelton)



CONCEPT ART

X-MEN: APOCALYPSE

IN THE COMIC-BOOK SEQUEL, MAGNETO (**MICHAEL FASSBENDER**) IS GIFTED WITH EVER GREATER POWERS BY AN ANCIENT MUTANT (**OSCAR ISAAC**). BY TIM STACK



The title of the latest installment in the blockbuster *X-Men* franchise not only spotlights the

Tom Hanks
and Felicity
Jones





power-hungry villain played by Oscar Isaac (*Star Wars: The Force Awakens*), it also not-so-subtly teases the destruction that takes place on screen. Awakened after thousands of years, ancient mutant Apocalypse (Isaac) believes the world needs a massive reboot and tasks his Four Horsemen—Magneto (Michael Fassbender), Storm (Alexandra Shipp), Psylocke (Olivia Munn), and Angel (Ben Hardy)—with helping him initiate epic annihilation. It's

up to the X-Men, including Charles (James McAvoy) and Mystique (Jennifer Lawrence), to stop the carnage, but the good guys have their work cut out for them: The Four Horsemen are awarded certain

> MAY 27
> ACTION-ADVENTURE

perks for joining the big bad's team. "One of Apocalypse's many powers is he can imbue other mutants with greater ones," says director Bryan Singer. Case in point: In this concept-art image (above), Singer says, "Magneto is demonstrating a small taste of what he can do now. Magneto is already enormously powerful.... Now Apocalypse gives him powers far beyond what we've seen before." Something tells us this will get very messy.

THE FREE STATE OF JONES

MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY LEADS
AN UPRISING IN THIS CIVIL WAR DRAMA

>>> IN *THE FREE STATE OF Jones*, Matthew McConaughey plays Newt Knight, a Mississippi farmer who leads an anti-Confederate rebellion. According to the Oscar winner—seen here with *House of Cards*' Mahershala Ali as Knight's ally Moses Washington—the conflict at the center of the film from writer-director Gary Ross (*The Hunger Games*) is still being waged. "It's a story about America and its relation with the individual and freedom," he says. "The period of Reconstruction following the Civil War is still under construction today. Why we were divided by race instead of being united by class didn't make sense to Newt Knight back then, and it wouldn't make sense to him today." —KEVIN P. SULLIVAN

Matthew McConaughey and Mahershala Ali



INFERNO

TOM HANKS RETURNS
AS THE *DA VINCI CODE*
PROF TO COMBAT
BIOLOGICAL TERROR

>>> Set in Italy, the third film adapted from Dan Brown's best-selling novels, *Inferno*, presents Tom Hanks' Harvard symbology professor Robert Langdon as we've never seen him: battling amnesia while maneuvering against a global bioterrorist plot. Renaissance artwork provides the "clue path," says director Ron Howard, whose previous two Langdon adaptations, *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels & Demons*, have grossed a combined \$1.2 billion worldwide. "Langdon is thrust into this crisis without knowing why or how he got there or what his role is. It gave Tom a lot to play with. And it allowed me to stage this as a modern psychological thriller." —CHRIS LEE

> OCT. 14
> THRILLER





DAREDEVIL IS ABOUT TO GET PUNISHED

IF YOU THINK **MATT MURDOCK** HAD IT HARD LAST SEASON, JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT—AND WHO—THE NEW SHOWRUNNERS HAVE IN STORE FOR HIM NEXT. **BY JAMES HIBBERD**

> MARCH
> NETFLIX

▶▶▶ SO THIS GUY IS arguing with his girlfriend on a New York rooftop and I shouldn't be eavesdropping,

but they're both ridiculously attractive and rather interestingly dressed in these sleek skin-tight outfits and carrying...are those weapons? Apparently he wants to crash a party, but she doesn't want to. Typical couple squabble, except with higher stakes: Many people could die based on the outcome of this conversation.

"I know it's harsh, but the people in there are a drop in the ocean," Elektra says. "It's the wrong play."

"It's the only play," Daredevil shoots back. "You stay here. I got work to do."

Daredevil, a.k.a. Matt Murdock (Charlie Cox), storms off—and promptly trips over a camera's dolly track. Awkward. And normally amusing, just not tonight. The *Daredevil* team is shooting a scene near the end of season 2's production, and the cast and crew are exhausted. Earlier, Elektra actress Elodie Yung went on a line-flubbing streak that got her so frustrated she howled to the director, "I'm going to jump off the roof!"

Thankfully, she didn't, because the introduction of her character—playing Murdock's

Charlie
Cox
and Jon
Bernthal



(From left) Elodie Yung; Cox and Deborah Ann Woll

lethal love interest—is a crucial part of the second edition of *Daredevil*, almost as important as another hugely iconic character joining the show: Frank Castle, better known as the Punisher, a vigilante who has the same clean-up-the-streets mission as Murdock, except he uses guns instead of fisticuffs and simply murders every criminal he can find. Played by testosterone-radiating former *Walking Dead* star Jon Bernthal, he’s a merciless, binary-thinking antihero who simply wants to kill all the bad guys—and he’ll have a lot of scarily enthusiastic supporters, on screen and off.

▶▶▶ WHEN MARVEL’S *DAREDEVIL* DEBUTED ON Netflix in 2015, it was the first superhero TV show that felt exclusively targeted toward grown-ups. Showrunner Steven S. DeKnight executed the story of a sorta-blind Hell’s Kitchen avenger that was surprisingly dark, both tonally and visually, as we followed defense lawyer Murdock’s evolution from street fighter to superhero. Murdock used his preternaturally heightened senses to take down Kingpin (Vincent D’Onofrio, who isn’t expected to appear this season) with the help of his libidinous legal partner Foggy Nelson (Elden Henson) and sweetly luminous assistant Karen Page (Deborah Ann Woll). ▶ DeKnight boldly went where TV superhero shows hadn’t gone before. He employed bone-crunching violence and a slow-burn story—*Daredevil* didn’t get his hellish costume until the finale; Kingpin wasn’t even glimpsed until the end of the third hour. So when DeKnight was replaced earlier this year by first-season writer Doug Petrie and first-season supervising producer Marco Ramirez, the shake-up seemed worrisome: Would the most daring Marvel show be forced into the company’s family-friendly comfort zone? Then came the second series in Netflix’s planned Marvel foursome, *Jessica Jones*, a show so sexually daring it could have been titled *Marvel’s Gone Girl*, and it became clear the studio was willing to floor the accelerator straight into Hell’s Kitchen’s darkest alleys. ▶ *Daredevil* explores even murkier themes this season, and has more sexual content as well. Yet the biggest difference is the pace: The premiere opens with *Daredevil* in action, and he’s locking horns with the Punisher by the end of the first hour. “The advantage of any sequel is you can dive right in,” says Petrie, taking a break on the set. “We hit the ground running and then we ran as fast as we f---ing could.”

That means keeping Murdock under assault all season. Between handling the rise of the Punisher, reuniting with his chaotic college love Elektra, and dealing with Foggy’s sense of betrayal after learning of Murdock’s secret identity, *Daredevil*’s feet are kept to the flames by the writers. “We never stop abusing this guy,” Petrie says.

The most intriguing threat Murdock will face is the Punisher, an ex-Special Forces soldier who uses his military prowess to stop crime. He’s set up as *Daredevil*’s enemy, but it’s a mystery as to how that dynamic will play out. “People have been coming up to me on the streets of New York saying, ‘Do not mess this up,’” says Bernthal, who for months walked alone across the Brooklyn Bridge to the *Daredevil* set to help get into Castle’s isolated and joyless headspace. “This character has resonated with law enforcement and military. He’s brought the war home with him in the worst possible way. And the best thing



about him is that if he offends you, he just doesn't care."

The producers predict the Punisher's tactics will spark fan debate, as Murdock is pushed to reexamine his own methods of fighting crime. "Taking lethal justice into your own hands with a gun in America in 2015 is tricky s---," Petrie says. "We're going to incite strong feelings and we're aware of the headlines where we live."

Then there's that other ethically challenged assassin—double-dagger-carrying Elektra, whom Petrie describes as "the best bad girlfriend you can possibly have." Expect Elektra to put Murdock to the test in ways Jennifer Garner never dreamed in the 2003 *Daredevil* film. "Every guy I know will recognize that relationship," Cox says. "It's abusive and romantic and dangerous, and doesn't make any sense." Complicating matters further is that Elektra enters Murdock's life just as things begin to heat up between Murdock and Karen. Plus, ultra-complicated Jessica Jones (Krysten Ritter) is destined to meet Murdock in the *Defenders* crossover miniseries, and might even show up on *Daredevil* this season, too.

They say hell is other people, and for Murdock this season it might be true—if crime lords and the Punisher don't put an end to him, his complicated love life just might.

INSECURE

THE MISADVENTURES OF AN AWKWARD BLACK GIRL CREATOR AND STAR **ISSA RAE** GOES DEEPER—AND AWKWARDER—ON HER NEW SHOW. BY RAY RAHMAN

> FALL
> HBO

▶▶▶ **Awkward Black Girl** was notable for portaying a black experience not often seen on TV. Will *Insecure* follow in its footsteps?

It's the same mission. The show's main characters are two black women who are on the cusp of their 30s, trying to figure out what it is they want in life, both in terms of careers and relationships. Like *Awkward*, we want to show a different aspect of black life, and now we'll get to go even deeper into these stories.

One of the funny things about Awkward Black Girl was the awkward white people. Will they figure into *Insecure*?

[Laughs] I like the phrasing "well-meaning but misguided." But we're not trying to make

anybody look extremely foolish, rather just call attention to the fact that these things happen, and they're frustrating.

Would you say there's been any improvement in TV diversity in recent years?

I think it's improved in terms of faces, but I'm not completely happy with the progress behind the scenes. There haven't been many shows other than *black-ish* that necessarily depict these different aspects of black life.

How much of this show is autobiographical?

A lot of the show is based on real experiences from my life. I found that just conversing all day with [consultant Larry Wilmore] about our lives and being open and honest led to a lot of the material... I just know I want to tell a good story, and hopefully we're on our way to doing that.

Issa
Rae



BRAN IS COMING! AFTER A YEAR'S HIATUS, THE PSYCHIC STARK BOY RETURNS NEXT SEASON WITH A GAME-CHANGING ARC.

BY JAMES HIBBERD

Wright recalls.

"Usually that's to tell you you're dead.

So comparatively, missing a season was like, 'Phew!'"

The showrunners explained they wanted to fast-forward past Bran's third-eye training, likening the move to how Luke Skywalker went from a shaky novice in *The Empire Strikes Back* to a full-fledged Jedi master at the opening of *Return of the Jedi*.

And they're exactly right, the 16-year-old actor says. "I would have just been sitting in a cave going, 'Oh, I can nearly do it now.'"

Since he was last on screen, Hempstead-Wright has sprouted to around six feet tall, but his physical transformation is nothing compared

While HBO endlessly teases us about Jon Snow's fate, here's one of Ned Stark's sons we can definitely say is coming back to *Game of Thrones*: Bran (Isaac Hempstead-Wright), who will have his biggest story line yet in season 6 of the fantasy hit after spending a year on the bench. EW has your exclusive first look at the character we last saw meeting the cave-dwelling Three-Eyed Raven in the season 4 finale, as Bran sought to develop control of his budding psychic powers.

"When I first heard the news [that showrunners David Benioff and Dan Weiss] wanted to have a chat with me, I was like, 'Oh, no!'" Hempstead-

> APRIL

> HBO

GAME OF THRO



Isaac
Hempstead-
Wright

with that of his mentor, as producers recast the Three-Eyed Raven with legendary film actor Max von Sydow (*The Exorcist*).

"There are certain lines that you think are almost fillers, like 'He's over there,' but when Max von Sydow says them, he can make it sound like it's the most important news you've ever heard," Hempstead-Wright says. (And indeed, producers used von Sydow's unmistakable voice in the season 6 teaser trailer.)

Anyway, enough with all the niceties, backstory, and chitchat—what's Bran doing next season? Tell us, tell us, tell us! As usual, Hempstead-Wright can't say much about the ultra-secret series, but this season is so pivotal for Bran that even what little the actor can say is very revealing: "Previously Bran's seen tiny glimpses of the future or past, but never has he been very much in control in the situation," he observes. "Now we're given looks into very important events in the past, present, and future of this world, and Bran is beginning to piece them together like a detective, almost as if he's watching the show. It's quite *Inception*-y. Equally, he's now discovering how crucial he could be in the Great War."

Let's just hope he doesn't get much bigger—poor Hodor's back can handle only so much!

GAME OF THRONES: HELEN SLOAN/HBO; CATASTROPHE: ANGUS YOUNG

Rob
Delaney
and
Sharon
Horgan



CATASTROPHE

IN THE RAUNCHY ROM-COM'S FIRST SEASON, WRITERS AND STARS **ROB DELANEY** AND **SHARON HORGAN** MET CUTE, GOT PREGNANT, AND GAVE IT A GO. SO NOW WHAT? BY RAY RAHMAN

> APRIL 8
> AMAZON

▶▶▶ The show was so adored in the U.K. and the U.S. How did you decide if the humor would play out in both?

SHARON HORGAN It definitely was handy to have someone who would say, "No one [in the States] is going to have a clue what that means." And then having a fight and being like, "So what?!" And finally coming to an agreement on *almost* everything.

ROB DELANEY We felt, with the show's reception in the U.K., that if people in the U.S. didn't like it, they'd be wrong.

At the end of season 1, Sharon goes into labor. Where does season 2 find everyone?

HORGAN We wanted to pick up a couple years forward, because we were very interested in how a love like that can survive when real life kicks in. They're more settled, but with new problems.

DELANEY They're definitely in love. They definitely—let's say four out of seven days of the week—wouldn't trade each other in for a different spouse. Which is a good ratio.

Sharon and Rob are a pretty vulgar couple. Will having a kid force them to clean up their act a little bit?

HORGAN There's a lot of mouthing of obscenities rather than just the actual saying of them. I've found, as a mother, you can't change who you are or you can't change personalities.

DELANEY I'd say they remain scumbags, but they try to keep it under wraps from the kid.

Any chance of them having a second kid?

DELANEY Crazier things have happened!

NE S



Jane Krakowski, Tituss Burgess, and Ellie Kemper

UNBREAKABLE KIMMY SCHMIDT

THE NEW SEASON FINDS KIMMY JUST TRYING TO KEEP HER SCHMIDT TOGETHER. BY MARC SNETIKER

> SPRING
> NETFLIX

▶▶▶ IF SEASON 1 LIT-
erally opened the hatch
on Kimmy Schmidt
(Ellie Kemper)—the

sunny optimist learning to conquer New York City after being trapped for 15 years in an underground doomsday cult—season 2 is about closing that door for good. “She’s a little bit in denial about the past,” says Kemper. “There may have been some idea in Kimmy’s head that the Reverend [who abducted her, played by Jon Hamm] is behind her now, but you don’t just close the book on a terrible chapter in your life.” Kimmy will attempt to forge ahead on all fronts, including homing in on one beau (“She’s not really ‘juggling’ this year,” says Kemper) and supplementing her nanny gig with a smattering of new jobs (including as a holiday-store elf). ♣ Reconciling the past also proves difficult for Jacqueline Voorhees (Jane Krakowski), who distracts herself from her messy divorce with a fierce rivalry against a rich housewife, and for Titus (Tituss Burgess), whose wife’s reappearance forces him to reexamine his emotional history. “He hasn’t always had this callous veneer,” says Burgess. “You’ll find out how and why he made the exit [from his past life].” After all, there’s more to him than his “Peeno Noir.”

THE AMERICANS

AS THE COLD WAR HEATS UP, OUR FAVORITE RUSSIAN SPIES STRUGGLE TO CONTAIN THEIR OWN BOMBHELLS AT HOME. BY MARC SNETIKER



FX’s thriller about undercover KGB agents Philip (Matthew Rhys) and Elizabeth (Keri Russell) ended its third season with life-altering confessions, betrayals, and more ‘80s tautness than a pair of workout leggings. Prepare to be debriefed on the biggest land mines the duplicitous duo will face in the year ahead.

NEW TENSIONS!

Season 4 picks up right in the heat of President Reagan’s infamous 1983 “Star Wars” defense program. “A lot of people refer to this exact period as one of the tensest in the Cold War,” says EP Joel Fields. “Philip and Elizabeth are going to be in the middle of some of the most dangerous operations that, interestingly, were not playing out in the headlines but were happening behind the scenes and didn’t come out until after the Cold War was over.”

> MARCH
> FX

NEW ALIASES!

Say hello to Patty, Elizabeth’s new undercover identity. If she’s giving you major “Mary Kay lady” vibes, that’s because Elizabeth’s cover is exactly that—a single career woman looking to make an extra dollar. “It’s a different ‘80s perspective than we’ve explored before,” creator Joe Weisberg says of “Patty,” who will remind Elizabeth of the rules of both cosmetics and espionage when she forms a dangerously real bond with recurring guest star Ruthie Ann Miles. “One of the problems with this work is that sometimes when you’re pretending to make a friend, you can accidentally make one,” explains Fields.

NEW THREATS!

Dylan Baker joins the cast as a rogue whose secret mission intersects with the couple’s. But an even bigger threat comes from Pastor Tim (Kelly AuCoin), the church confidant to whom Paige (Holly Taylor) spilled the truth about her parents in the finale—and whom you shouldn’t put in a body bag just yet. “We often use the adjective ‘formidable’ to describe Pastor Tim,” says Weisberg. “Philip and Elizabeth have the USSR, but he has faith in God.”

NEW CONFESSIONS!

The marriage between FBI secretary Martha (Alison Wright) and Philip’s alter ego Clark is far from over, despite his big



Keri Russell as her new alias, "Patty"; (below) Matthew Rhys and Holly Taylor



ORPHAN BLACK

GET READY TO MEET A NEWCOMER THIS SEASON WHO HAS VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORPHANS' EXISTENCE—BUT WILL WE EVER FIND OUT WHO SHE IS? BY DALTON ROSS

▶▶▶ It seems every time the clone sestras find answers about how and why they exist, those answers only lead to more ques-

> APRIL
> BBC
AMERICA

tions. But Sarah, Cosima, Alison, and Helena may have a new source—if they can just get this person to unmask herself. Season 4 will see the introduction of a mysterious new clone who wears a sheep mask and goes by the name of M.K. (and is played, like all the other clones, by Tatiana Maslany). "She's very paranoid," says co-creator/director John Fawcett. "She knows more than Sarah does, so she knows how dangerous the whole thing is. She's purposefully avoided contact with the sisters to keep herself safe. Sarah is trying utilize the information she has so that she can fill in the blanks and protect Alison, and also protect Cosima from Neolution. But this girl is very unwilling." The question now becomes, how trustworthy is M.K.? And how much information can Sarah extract from her? "For the first time, we're meeting someone who knows more than us," adds co-creator/writer Graeme Manson. "And yet she's a slippery character. She's a reluctant source." And a funny one. "You get it?" asks Manson about the choice of masks. Yep, we get it: Dolly the sheep. A little clone humor there for you.

A first look at the always-masked new clone



NEW...AGENTS?

reveal—and wig removal—last season. "She has a much clearer picture of who her husband is, and therefore it's a much more real relationship that strangely deepens through these revelations," says Weisberg. Fields adds, "If we're ever at a point where we're telling two marriage stories, it's this season."

It might be time to start worrying about 12-year-old Henry (Keidrich Sellati), whose fondness for FBI-agent neighbor Stan (Noah Emmerich) is "a danger," Fields says. "He could end up telling Stan too much. Then you start thinking about [how] he's influenced by Stan—how hard is it for a kid that age to want to be an FBI agent?"

UNBREAKABLE: KIMMY SCHMIDT: ERIC LIEBOWITZ/NETFLIX; RUSSELL: DAVID M. RUSSELL/FX NETWORKS; RHYS AND TAYLOR: JEFF NEUMANN/FX NETWORKS; ORPHAN BLACK: IEN WORTENBERG/ABC AMERICA

It's not just about the kilts anymore. In the upcoming second season of *Outlander*, Claire (Caitriona Balfe) and Jamie (Sam Heughan) unite to stop the Battle of Culloden. And as part of a plan to infiltrate the Jacobite Rebellion, the pair travel to Paris led by Prince Charles Stuart (Andrew Gower). With the help of Jamie's cousin Jared (Robert Cavanah), the sexy duo manage to work their way into opulent French society. Which means they needed to look the part—the usual

heavy tartans had to make way for sumptuous silk costumes fitting for the upper class. So how much of an undertaking was it to create the looks? Anything but easy, according to costume designer Terry Dresbach. "It's a massive season," she says, estimating that her team has already made more than 10,000 pieces for the drama's sophomore year. "What we discovered pretty early on was that we couldn't just buy 18th-century fabrics. And to pay for fabrics that would elevate

> SPRING
> STAR 7



Sam Heughan and Caitriona Balfe; (inset) costume designer Terry Dresbach's sketch

us to the level that Parisian [finery] was would kill us on budget. So we figured out a way to do it with a team. Every piece was embroidered and hand-painted in our workshop." But no dress inspired—or challenged—the design team as much as the "one-of-a-kind" layered gown Claire wears to a Paris stable (at left), that was made from a fabric Dresbach found while shopping in San Francisco with her husband, *Outlander* showrunner Ronald D. Moore. Dresbach was convinced she had to buy the fabric, not just because it was a spectacular pink, yellow, and plum silk/wool blend with flowers woven into the design. "While I was looking at the fabric, a woman standing across the room said, 'That's amazing. Have you ever seen *Outlander*? That looks like something for *Outlander*,'" recalls Dresbach. "I said, 'As a matter of fact, this is for *Outlander*. And this is the executive producer.' She freaked out and said she loved the show. I had no choice but to buy it." It looks so good, Jamie just might want her to keep it on.

OUTLANDER: 2016 STARZ ENTERTAINMENT, LLC (2); OUTCAST: NIKO TAVERNISE/CINEMAX; THE RANCH: PATRICK WYMORE/NETFLIX

Gabriel Bateman (top) and Patrick Fugit



OUTCAST

ROBERT KIRKMAN'S LATEST COMIC ADAPTATION DITCHES EVIL FLESH-EATERS FOR EVIL SPIRITS

> SUMMER
> CINEMAX

▶▶▶ *The Walking Dead's* Robert Kirkman may be the master of all things zombie, but for his new series he turned to the world of demonic possession. "*Outcast* is about people treating demonic possession as a solvable problem," says Kirkman, who serves as EP and wrote the script. At the center of the storm is Kyle Barnes (Patrick Fugit), a loner who has watched multiple people in his past become possessed. "Kyle has abilities that aid him in these exorcisms, but they're very unique and I would say far more violent than a typical exorcist's—which is interesting because he's going to be exorcising a wide range of people, including a small child in our first episode." You know what they say: Sometimes big demons come in small packages. —DALTON ROSS

Debra Winger, Ashton Kutcher, Danny Masterson, and Sam Elliott



THE RANCH

THE BROS ARE BACK! **ASHTON KUTCHER** AND **DANNY MASTERSON** REUNITE ON A NEW SITCOM. BY DAN SNIERSON

▶▶▶ IT'S THE SECOND COMING OF *That '70s Show*! Well, almost. Ashton Kutcher and Danny Masterson have joined forces to rustle up laughs on *The Ranch*, a comedy from *Two and a Half Men's* Don Reo and Jim Patterson about a confident-but-failed

semipro football player (Kutcher) who returns to Colorado to help run the family ranch. Masterson plays his second-fiddle brother, and Sam Elliott is their stiff-necked father. Their strong-willed mother (Debra Winger) owns a bar and temporarily lives in a trailer behind it while she figures out her marriage. "A lot of the show plays outdoors, which is unconventional for a sitcom," says Kutcher. "We're breaking a bunch of rules, but at the same time, it's a sitcom about fathers and sons, and what it's like to live in that town you just want to get out of." As for the brothers' dynamic, "Our relationship is contentious, but the history of Danny and my friendship bleeds into the characters," says Kutcher. "They're best friends, but they f---ing hate each other." Sounds like...a real-life family!

> SPRING
> NETFLIX



THE PATH

AARON PAUL, MICHELLE MONAGHAN, AND HUGH DANCY STAR AS DEVOTEES TO A CONTROVERSIAL RELIGION SOME CALL A CULT. SO DON'T EXPECT THIS ONE TO FLY UNDER THE RADAR. **BY SARA VILKOMERSON**

> MARCH 30
> HULU

▶▶▶ IT'S AN UNSEASONABLY WARM December day on the set of Hulu's new drama *The Path*, and deep in the woods about 90 minutes north of New York City one of its stars, Hugh Dancy, is covered head to toe in mud. "It's getting a bit itchy," he says with a grin. That's pretty much all he (and we) can say as to why he's so dirty, since part of the fun of this eerie and twisty show—about a family at the center of a controversial religious movement—is guessing what's around the next turn. Even its actors aren't immune: "When I got to the end of the first epi-

sode I wanted to know what comes next, which is ridiculous because I *know* what comes next," Dancy says. Aaron Paul, who plays protagonist Eddie Lane, a husband and father struggling with a crisis of faith, sums things up a bit differently. "S— is about to get *real* messed up," he says with a laugh. ¶ Indeed. By the end of the first two episodes we've already learned why Eddie's recent spiritual retreat to Peru, which involved a hallucinogenic trip on ayahuasca, has him questioning his way of life and participation in a movement (or, to the outside world, cult) called Meyerism. Meanwhile, his wife, Sarah (Michelle Monaghan), who was born into Meyerism, is a true-blue believer, and Cal (Dancy), who has a past with Sarah, is acting as the de facto leader while the group's founder is absent. Add in a devastating tornado, a defector who claims her husband was murdered when he left Meyerism, an FBI investigation into cult activities, and increased media scrutiny—and that's just the beginning. "I knew we were going down this deep, dark rabbit hole and it was going to be a messy ride," says Paul. "Which I was very excited about."

(Left) Hugh Dancy; (below) Michelle Monaghan and Aaron Paul



The Path was created by Jessica Goldberg (a writer and producer on *Parenthood*) during her own crisis of faith after the death of her father and the dissolution of her marriage. “I decided to shut myself in a room and write about what this feeling is,” she says. “From there I sat in the room with four writers and we made up a religion.” They drew upon a variety of sources from both Eastern and Western religions, but Goldberg is careful to say that people shouldn’t compare Meyerism to any specific organization, especially not the one founded by L. Ron Hubbard. “Everyone is sort of obsessed with Scientology, it is in the zeitgeist,” she says. “But we’ve tried to steer clear.”

She brought the project to her *Parenthood* boss, Jason Katims, who became a believer and signed on as an executive producer. “To be honest, the subject matter in another writer’s hands wouldn’t really appeal to me,” he says. “We’ve seen stories about cults—whether they’re documentaries or books or movies—and this seemed to turn that on its head. It’s an intimate portrait of these characters and a marriage and a family.”

For Paul, choosing a television project to follow the acclaimed *Breaking Bad* was daunting. “I was very nervous simply because I was a part of what I consider to be the best,” he says. “This is different, but it has that same excitement,” he says. “When I read scripts I cannot wait to turn the page.” His TV wife, Monaghan, agrees. “It sounds weird to say about *this* show, but it’s felt kind of blessed.”

THE NIGHT MANAGER

LOKI, LAURIE, AND LE CARRÉ TEAM UP FOR A SPY MINISERIES 20 YEARS IN THE MAKING.
BY KEVIN P. SULLIVAN

▶▶▶ From the moment John le Carré’s *The Night Manager* was published in 1993, producers have tried to bring the spy master’s tale

> APRIL
> AMC

about arms dealing to the big screen. But a film never materialized, and for good reason: time constraints. “This is a fabulous book,” says le Carré’s son, *Night Manager* exec producer Simon Cornwell. “It’s got a vast scope to it. It just doesn’t fit into two hours.” The story is finally getting what it deserves as a six-episode miniseries, starring Tom Hiddleston as MI-6 field agent Jonathan Pine and Hugh Laurie as Richard Roper, a morally ambiguous weapons dealer whom Pine is tasked with bringing down. ¶ “The best way I can describe the story is the thriller equivalent of a bromance,” says exec producer Stephen Garrett. That isn’t to say that *The Night Manager* is female-free—updating the story for 2016, the producers gender-flipped the role of Pine’s MI-6 handler, Leonard Burr, into Angela Burr (Olivia Colman). Fittingly, Hiddleston and Laurie formed a bromance of their own during the project’s development and over the course of the intensive 75-day shoot, which took them to Morocco, Majorca, Switzerland, and London. “[Laurie] can’t address me by my real name,” Hiddleston says. “I sign off emails to him as ‘Pine,’ and he addresses me as ‘Pine.’ I don’t know why, but it makes us laugh.”

Tom Hiddleston



ROADIES

ALMOST FAMOUS WRITER-DIRECTOR **CAMERON CROWE** IS GOING BEHIND THE MUSIC AGAIN—THIS TIME WITH A TV SERIES STARRING **LUKE WILSON**, **CARLA GUGINO**, AND **IMOGEN POOTS** AS THE SUPPORT STAFF FOR A TOURING ROCK BAND. BY **DAN SNIERSON**

> SUMMER
> SHOWTIME



In *Almost Famous*, you shined a spotlight on a kid coming of age on the road, following around a rising band. Now you're shining the spotlight on the people who shine the spotlights on the band. What intrigued you about that side of the business?

I hadn't seen their stories told.... I always used to see these pictures—or when

we'd film something—where Elton John would come down the hallway of the Forum on his way to the stage, and some poor [stagehand] would be moving a cart, and he'd see the camera and Elton coming and he'd be like [*mimics someone trying to get out of frame*]. The camera would just move past him, and I was like, No—let's do the show where the camera's on *this* guy that's against the wall. Let



ROADIES: KATIE YU/SHOWTIME (2); DIVORCE: MACALL POLAY/HBO

DIVORCE

SARAH JESSICA PARKER RETURNS TO HBO WITH A NEW SERIES ABOUT MODERN LOVE. JUST DON'T CALL IT YOU-KNOW-WHAT. BY TIM STACK

▶▶▶ FIRST THINGS

first: Sarah Jessica Parker is back on HBO with a show about romance set

> FALL
> HBO

in New York, but she wants everyone to know her new character, Frances, is not Carrie Bradshaw. "I mean, she's so freakin' different," says Parker. "She's not always as buoyant as Carrie was." With good reason: The series launches with Frances, a corporate recruiter, deciding to divorce her real estate entrepreneur husband, Robert (Thomas Haden Church), after 17 years and two kids together. "She's incredibly weary of this marriage," explains Parker. "By the end of the episode it becomes less about grief and more about combat that really happens in divorce." Still, there are plenty of laughs. "I'm not sure what to call it," Parker admits. "It's funny. There's a lot about it that's dark and awful and incredibly sad and truthful." ¶ Parker had been trying to develop a series about marriage for years at HBO, but it wasn't until she met with writer Sharon Horgan (*Catastrophe*) that she found the right treatment. "I had the idea for a long-term, ugly, but ultimately funny divorce—or uncoupling, as Gwyneth would say," says Horgan. "We're not making light of it. We're showing that stupid and funny stuff happens even at the worst of times." While Parker was initially set to just produce, she realized she couldn't let someone else play Frances. "I just loved this story," says the actress. "Sharon's work is so exciting and singular." We can raise a cosmo to that.

Sterling
Jerins, Sarah
Jessica
Parker,
and Charlie
Kilgore



Luke Wilson
and Carla Gugino;
(below left) J.J.
Abrams, Wilson,
and Cameron
Crowe on set

Elton John go. We want to know *his* world. That's kind of the show.

How long have you had the idea for *Roadies*?

It happened about eight years ago. J.J. [Abrams, an exec producer alongside *My So-Called Life* creator Winnie Holzman and Crowe] and I both came up at the same time working with Jim Brooks, so we became friends. And then one time we just started pitching. He said, "I went to this show, and I looked up, and I saw this girl on a rigging tower, and I just wondered, 'What is her world like?'" And I was like, "Well, I'll tell you what her world is like," and we started talking and he's like, "You know, this is your show." I said, "Wow, okay." We never see the band, we never hear the band. It's about the people. It's about that girl and those people that disappear when the lights go down."

What kinds of stories can audiences expect week in and week out?

Each city [of the tour] is an episode. The show is about the crew, and it's the family and the circus that exists behind the

curtain that we don't get to see. Their whole world ends when they're able to put the band on stage, and begins again when the band comes off stage. The hour and 15 minutes when the band is on stage—that's the only thing that's off-limits in the show.

Through all your years of reporting on bands, what's the best roadie story you've heard?

I heard some roadies talking about how something had to be "yellow-jacketed" and I [asked] "What is yellow-jacketing?" They said, "There was a guy that worked with Guns N' Roses, and there was a show and Axl Rose needed a yellow jacket that he'd left in England before he would perform. So a roadie was given the job to get on a plane as fast as possible, go to London, find Axl Rose's yellow jacket, and come back so he could play the show." The best part about that story is *not* that somebody had to go get a yellow jacket for Axl Rose, but that it became such lore among other roadies that it became a verb—to yellow-jacket.

Do you see yourself weaving a version of that yellow-jacket story into the show?

Oh, yeah. We have a yellow-jacketing situation. Or two. Or three.

> FALL
> NBC

▶▶▶ FORGET THE TWISTER THAT WHISKED JUDY GARLAND AWAY FROM KANSAS—*Emerald City*, NBC's gritty spin on *The Wizard of Oz*, has had to endure an even rougher ride to get to the small screen: The network first ordered the series in 2014, killed it that same year, then revived it eight months later under new showrunners. And though there's been no shortage of shows based on the classic source material—including NBC's own live production of *The Wiz* in December—this 10-episode series, which derives plotlines from all 14 of L. Frank Baum's Oz-based books, will upend the titular city the most, according to producers. ¶ "It's analogous in many ways to how *Romeo and Juliet* inspired *West Side Story*," EP Shaun Cassidy says. "Taking elements from the 14 books and putting them in a more contemporary, adult context is something that's never been realized before." ¶ Some of the adult context will include Dorothy (Adria Arjona) struggling to reconcile with her mother, who abandoned her as a child; the Wizard (Vincent D'Onofrio) and the Wicked Witch of the

WITCHES AND WIZARDS—AND WAR? OH, MY! HERE'S HOW NBC GOES OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD (AGAIN) IN THIS DARK—BUT FLASHY—NEW TAKE ON OZ. BY SHIRLEY LI

EMERALD CITY

East (Florence Kasumba) contending with a looming war between kingdoms and belief systems; and Lucas ("the Scarecrow," played by Oliver Jackson-Cohen) suffering painful trauma that causes him to lose his memory. Even Toto gets a makeover: He's now a trained K9 police dog. ¶ Oz, however, won't *look* darker. Director Tarsem Singh sought to make the land appear fantastical through practical means by filming in far-flung locations, including Spain's El Torcal nature reserve, where they planted yellow poppies on a historic Roman path to create the Yellow Brick Road, and



(From left) Vincent D'Onofrio; Florence Kasumba; and Oliver Jackson-Cohen and Adria Arjona



Croatia's Plitvice Lakes National Park, where frozen waterfalls provided enchanting backdrops. "You can't digitally re-create these environments," EP David Schulner says. "They're filled with magic." Yet, as Dorothy learned, there's no place like home—and the same goes for the show. "First and foremost, it's a life-affirming adventure for Dorothy, who's still from Kansas and ends up carried to a strange new world," Cassidy explains. "The stakes for her will just be *much* bigger." In other words, don't expect a pair of ruby slippers to save the day this time.



EMERALD CITY: RICO TORRES/NBC (3); QUEEN OF THE SOUTH: BENEDICTE DESRUS/USA NETWORK

QUEEN OF THE SOUTH

THE HIT TELENVELA *LA REINA DEL SUR* GETS AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MAKEOVER. BUT WILL THE RATINGS TRANSLATE? BY NINA TERRERO

▶▶▶ **Teresa Mendoza (Alice Braga)** isn't your average TV heroine. She knows

> SPRING
> USA

her way around a shotgun and cocaine, and has zero tolerance for threats, which helps her rise from the girlfriend of a drug runner to head of the most powerful cartel in North America on this adaptation of the best-selling novel *La Reina del Sur*, also the basis for a hit telenovela. "She's smart," says Braga (*Elysium*). "It's beautiful to see the way she deals with her challenges." Another challenge? Producers are hoping to match the ratings of *Reina*, which became one of the most watched Spanish-language series of all time during its Telemundo run in 2011. "You can't deny its success," says EP David T. Friendly. But he says his version is less of a soap and more a thriller like USA's *Mr. Robot*. "[That show] has the same darkness ours does," Friendly says. "And the same audience we want. Which is everyone." *Queen* also aims to add a new spin on the typical macho drug drama. "Teresa didn't choose to become the head of a cartel," says Friendly. "She's pulled into that world and turns out to be incredibly skilled at it. Why wouldn't you root for her?"

Alice Braga



HAPPY F

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▶▶▶ *Fifty Shades of Grey* was once just *Twilight* fanfic. Yours could be next! If you have some fan-tastic fic, we'd love to read it. Send us your finest work (please keep it under 10,000 words). One winner will be published in the pages of EW.

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Calling all Trekkies, Beliebers, Parrotheads, and Potter maniacs! Think you're the most loyal superfan? We dare you to prove it. Shoot a short video (no more

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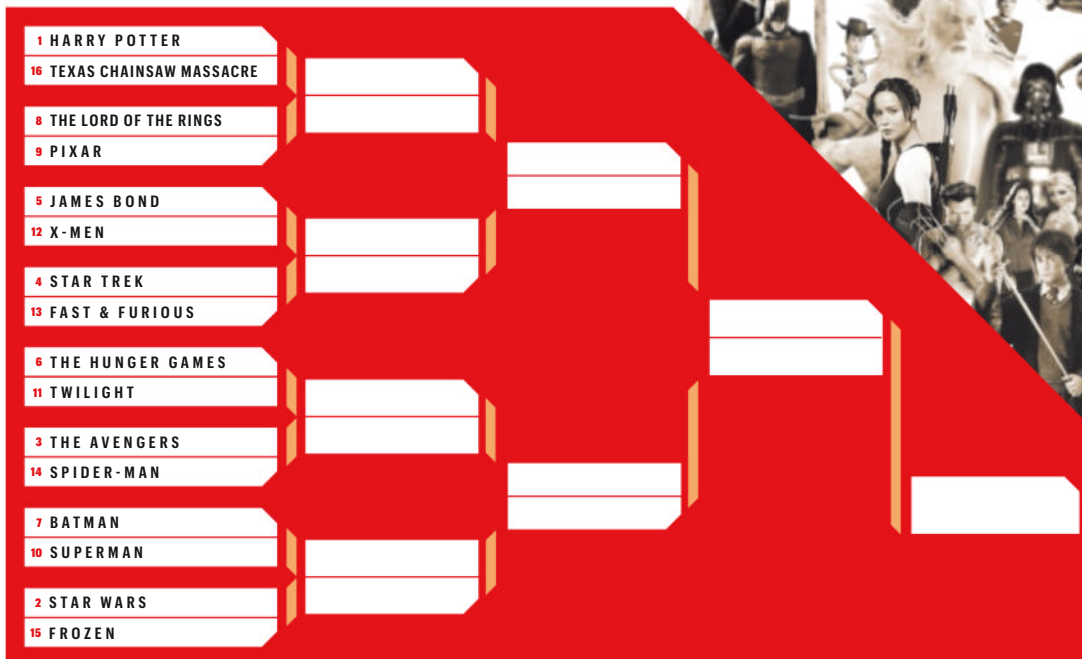
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THE ULTIMATE

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MOVIES



ROUND OF 64

ROUND OF 32

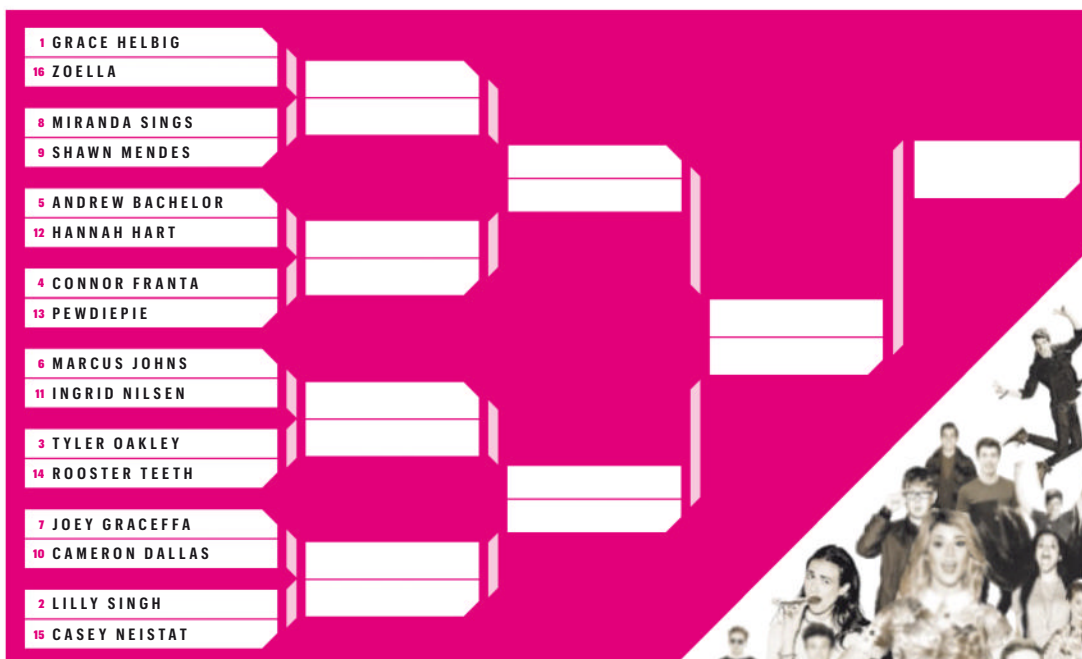
ROUND OF 16

QUARTERFINALS

SEMIFINALS

FINAL

WIN



DIGITAL INFLUENCERS

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TV



GAME OF THRONES 1

SHERLOCK 16

THE BACHELOR 8

SURVIVOR 9

DOCTOR WHO 5

ONCE UPON A TIME 12

TGIT 4

TEEN WOLF 13

SUPERNATURAL 6

AMERICAN HORROR STORY 11

PRETTY LITTLE LIARS 3

EMPIRE 14

OUTLANDER 7

THE VAMPIRE DIARIES 10

THE WALKING DEAD 2

THE X-FILES 15

SEMIFINALS

QUARTERFINALS

ROUND OF 16

ROUND OF 32

ROUND OF 64

FINAL

ONE DIRECTION 1

5 SECONDS OF SUMMER 16

MARIAH CAREY 8

RIHANNA 9

LADY GAGA 5

RUSH 12

JUSTIN BIEBER 4

LUKE BRYAN 13

ADELE 6

GRATEFUL DEAD 11

TAYLOR SWIFT 3

DIERKS BENTLEY 14

NICKI MINAJ 7

KATY PERRY 10

BEYONCÉ 2

KANYE WEST 15



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MUSIC

JESSICA LANGE: MICHELE K. SHORT/FX; IAN SOMERHOLDER: ANNETTE BROWN/THE CW; GAME OF THRONES: HBO; JEFF PROBST: ROBERT VOETS/CBS; JENSEN ACKLES: CAROLE SEGAL/THE CW; CAITRIONA BALFE: STARZ; THE X-FILES: © 20TH CENTURY FOX/EVERETT COLLECTION (2); ANDREW LINCOLN: GENE PAGE/AMC; KERRY WASHINGTON: GREG GAYNE/ABC; CHRIS HARRISON: RICK ROWELL/ABC; JENNIFER MORRISON: BOB D'AMICO/ABC; BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: COLIN HUTTON/HARTWOOD FILMS; TARAJI P. HENSON: CHUCK HODES/FOX; DOCTOR WHO: ADRIAN ROGERS/BBC; ASHLEY BENSON: ERIC MCCANDLESS/ABC FAMILY; WEST: JEFF KRAVITZ/FILMMAGIC.COM; CAREY: WAYNE MASER; BEYONCÉ: KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES; BENTLEY: TAYLOR HILL/GETTY IMAGES; GEDDY LEE: FIN COSTELLO/GETTY IMAGES; SWIFT, LADY GAGA: EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION/AP IMAGES (2); BIEBER: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES; PERRY: CHINAFOOTPRESS/GETTY IMAGES; MINAJ: GARY MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; HARRY STYLES: DOUG PETERS/PA PHOTOS/LANDOV; ADELE: GHANASSIA/SIPA/REX SHUTTERSTOCK; RIHANNA: JB LACROIX/GETTY IMAGES; BRYAN: DEBBY WONG/CORBIS; LUKE HEMMINGS: CPA/PACIFICCOASTNEWS; JERRY GARCIA: LARRY HULST/GETTY IMAGES

MUSK





David Bowie

DAVID BOWIE'S BOLD RETURN

HOW THE ROCK LEGEND REINVENTED HIMSELF ONCE AGAIN ON **BLACKSTAR** (OUT JAN. 8), ALREADY ONE OF THE BEST ALBUMS OF 2016. BY KYLE ANDERSON



For his January birthday, David Bowie, 69, is giving everyone else a gift: the first entry in the race for the best album of 2016. Three years ago, the legend emerged from a self-imposed near-exile and ended a decade-long recording drought with *The Next Day*, a moody meditation on a handful of the shape-shifter's many musical personas—particularly his triptych of Brian Eno-produced projects from the late '70s. It was nice to have him back, though it seemed to be lacking something. For such an iconoclastic artist, Bowie did so much looking back on *The Next Day* that it was difficult to figure out which way was forward.

But on *Blackstar*, Bowie has found his path out of the dark the only way he knows how: by completely reinventing himself. His 28th (!) studio album is the product of a collaboration with a jazz combo. Bowie initially cut the single "Sue (Or in a Season of Crime)" with big-band leader Maria Schneider, which led him to horn player Donny McCaslin. "At the beginning I was like, 'Whoa, David Bowie just emailed me!'" says McCaslin. "I certainly had those moments, but I just wanted to stay focused. We just wanted to do the songs justice. His vibe in the studio was generous and gracious. And he's really funny—a lot of repartee." That joyous spirit yielded the seven tracks on *Blackstar*, including the jaw-dropping 10-minute title track, a reworked version of

"Sue (Or in a Season of Crime)," an insistent prog-dance jam called "Tis a Pity She Was a Whore," and a gauzy dream of a song called "Dollar Days," which recalls the Thin White Duke's earliest recordings. It's all held together by a palpable chemistry. "We've spent a lot of time together, and we improvise a lot together. That cohesion was in place when we got to the studio, and David fit right into it. It was really a band atmosphere," McCaslin explains. "He's a guy who could do anything at this point. I didn't notice him reaching back. I just felt like he's pushing to do something new." With *Blackstar*, Bowie is squarely in his comfort zone—which is light-years ahead of anyone else.

SANTIGOLD**99¢**

FEB. 26

▶▶▶ In order to see Santigold's latest music video for "Who Be Lovin' Me," viewers had to make it through parody infomercials for dating apps and selfie printers. This playful satire fits the overall spirit of the singer's new album, *99¢*, which Santi "Santigold" White calls a reaction to modern consumerism. "I wanted to talk about the absurdity of people more interested in capturing moments to market themselves on social media than experiencing things," White says. The music on *99¢* retains the genre-busting pop sound of Santigold's previous work, but collaborators like Vampire Weekend's Rostam Batmanglij and Patrik Berger (Robyn, Icona Pop) lend new vibes to songs like "Can't Get Enough of Myself" and "Rendezvous Girl." "It was so much fresh energy and new approaches," White says, "which I needed."

VARIOUS ARTISTS**SOUTHERN FAMILY**

MARCH 18

▶▶▶ Get ready for the biggest country blowout of 2016. Producer Dave Cobb (Sturgill Simpson, Jason Isbell) has rounded up Nashville's biggest stars for a concept album about family life in the South. Zac Brown, Miranda Lambert, Chris Stapleton, Jamey Johnson, Shooter Jennings, and more are contributing their own new songs to the 12-track set. "There are some tracks that are deep and slow and brooding," says Cobb, "and some that are really powerful and upbeat. It's alive."

RAY LAMONTAGNE**TITLE TBD**

MARCH TBD

▶▶▶ LaMontagne scored a Grammy for 2010's *God Willin' & the Creek Don't Rise* while his follow-up, 2014's *Supernova*, topped *Billboard*'s rock charts. But the soft-spoken



Pusha T

singer-songwriter isn't feeling any pressure for his sixth LP. "I just let things happen," he says. "I don't force anything." Last February, LaMontagne joined My Morning Jacket's Jim James at La La Land studio in Louisville, Ky. Those sessions resulted in eight sprawling, gorgeous meditations, bathed in buckets of reverb. Says LaMontagne: "It was about creating a record that I'd want to listen to if I were in the record store discovering albums. I don't write singles; I'm not that kind of songwriter. I let whatever creative force just tell me what to do."

BONNIE RAITT

THE GRAMMY-WINNING LEGEND, 66, REVEALS HOW SHE OVERCAME LOSS FOR HER 20TH ALBUM, *DIG IN DEEP* (OUT FEB. 26)—AND WHY SHE'S ONLY GETTING DEEPER 40 YEARS INTO HER CAREER. BY MADISON VAIN



Bonnie Raitt

Dig In Deep has your most original material on an album since 1998's *Fundamental*. What inspired you to write so much?

I had a decade of a lot of loss. [Raitt's mother, Marjorie; father, musical-theater star John; and brother Steve all died between 2004 and 2009.] I was depleted, but like when your car runs out of battery and your friend pushes you, I got a push. My guitarist George Marinelli sent me the track "If You Need Somebody," and I got the wheels going. I knew I was going to write something about Dad, and it was going to be sad, so I was glad to break that block.

The album has up-tempo rockers, too.

We were feeling pretty frisky, I must say. There are a couple of those ballads, but I like to put together a collection the way you would put a show together. You don't want to have people rushing to the doors weeping.

What made you want to cover INXS' "Need You Tonight" and Los Lobos' "Shakin' Shakes"?

I'm a big INXS fan. I always wanted to stop and [sing]. "You're one of my kind!" [Laughs] It feels exactly as sexy as it sounds. And I just love Los Lobos. The music was hellacious enough where I couldn't help but find

it irresistible. I put it on there just so we could tear it up live.

A number of young artists cite you as a major influence. Do you feel like you have a role to play for younger women?

Oh, how sweet! I've never seen my name on a list of anybody ever mentioning anything. [Laughs] I don't mean to be falsely humble, but I literally have not seen it before. I'm thrilled.

Forty years into your career, what keeps you motivated?

My role models were old R&B and blues artists, like Tony Bennett and my dad. I'm modeling myself after them. People get more interesting and deeper as they get older.

PUSHA T

KING PUSH

APRIL TBD

▶▶▶ Pusha T may be the newly anointed head of Kanye West's G.O.O.D. Music label, but he's not abandoning his own music. In December, Pusha released *King Push—Darkest Before Dawn: The Prelude*, which, true to its title, is just a precursor to the hotly anticipated *King Push*. "The [new] songs are more socially driven," says the 38-year-old rapper. "Hardcore hip-hop is what I'm known for, but it's just a bit broader." Expect more of the "dark, sinister records" that are Pusha's calling card. "When producers get with me, they want to experiment and do unorthodox records. Because that's what I'm known for: unorthodox music."

CYNDI LAUPER

DETOUR

SPRING TBD

▶▶▶ After the success of 2010's comeback *Memphis Blues*—not to mention her work on the Broadway musical *Kinky Boots*—the pop icon, 62, decamped to Nashville for her 11th album, a companion piece focusing on classic country songs of the '50s and '60s. Lauper once again teamed up with top-level talent, including Willie Nelson. "I tried to be professional, but you know when you're overwhelmed—when he came in, I almost cried," says Lauper. Another influence: Dolly Parton, who doesn't appear on the record but whose spirit looms large. "The first hotel we stayed at in Nashville had a big art piece on the wall, and in the corner it said 'What Would Dolly Do?'" Lauper says. "I kept thinking that all the way through."

U2

SONGS OF EXPERIENCE

DATE TBD

▶▶▶ After surprise-releasing *Songs of Innocence* on Apple in 2014, U2 spent last year on their massive Innocence + Experience Tour—all while continuing to hone the material for *Songs of Experience*, a companion of sorts to *Innocence*. "We're well into it," Bono told EW in October. "Edge

Matthew Healy



THE 1975

THE BRITISH ROCK QUARTET UP THE DANCE FACTOR ON THEIR SECOND ALBUM, *I LIKE IT WHEN YOU SLEEP, FOR YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL YET SO UNAWARE OF IT* (OUT FEB. 26).

BY MADISON VAIN

▶▶▶ When this Manchester quartet broke out in 2013 with their top 40 debut album (and its glammy single "Sex"), they were heralded as rock revivalists this decade with a stylish mix of '80s new-wave melodies and hip-swiveling grooves.

But on their anticipated follow-up, they're going in a '90s-style pop direction thanks to an expanded pool of influences, from D'Angelo and Christina Aguilera to Janet Jackson producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis. "You probably listen to lots of different things these days—that's how everybody in our generation consumes music," says frontman Matthew Healy. "And I wanted to make a record that's truly modern. My only fear ever is to be retrogressive."

So what's up with that wordy title? Healy recalls uttering it to a girlfriend, and it became a guiding phrase as the band began writing songs. "I informed everyone that it would be the title, and that decision fed into the ethos of the whole creation of the record," he says.

Among the highlights of the album's 17 lavishly produced tracks: the strutting Prince-style "Love Me" and the slinky, synthed-out "UGH!" "It's a very, very produced record," Healy says. "It's kind of funny—we got lumped in with all these guitar bands in the U.K. at the start, but it was like, you might as well call us a drums band or a microphone band. Guitar is the last thing we think about."



SIA

HOW THE QUEEN OF THE 21ST-CENTURY POP ANTHEM IS GOING EVEN BIGGER ON THE LIBERATING *THIS IS ACTING*. BY KYLE ANDERSON

▶▶▶ Despite some *Six Feet Under*-adjacent love for 2004's "Breathe Me" and plenty of critical appreciation for her first five solo albums, Sia Furler initially found far more success as a songwriter than as a performer, having crafted smashes for the likes of Katy Perry, Rihanna, and Christina Aguilera. That all changed with the arrival of 2014's *1000 Forms of Fear*, a remarkably durable piece of modern pop that yielded the instant radio staples "Chandelier" and "Elastic Heart." With her self-consciousness gradually eroding and her keen visual sense sharpening, Sia is now an elite star on both sides of the recording-booth glass, and her forthcoming seventh album, featuring songs she initially pitched for Adele, Rihanna, and others, reflects her newfound comfort with embracing her pop-star status. "The last album was a little bit of a departure from the albums that came before, so it was transitional," says collaborator Greg Kurstin. "On this, I think anything is game, which is very liberating. There's a lot of songs on here that we maybe would not have put on the last album." Those tracks include the synth jam "Cheap Thrills" and the samba-esque "Move Your Body," and once again the tunes will go hand in hand with Sia's visual flair. "She has such great video ideas, and I think that informs the songs more and more—what's going to fit the concepts she has in mind," says Kurstin. "She's very good at pulling everything together. It always amazes me."

just came up with a cracker...provisionally titled "Tightrope." Bono revealed the group had around 18 tracks completed, which will be whittled down to about a dozen. "We're playing out of our skins at the moment," he joked. "It's pathetic it took us 35 years to be the band we've always wanted to be."

BECK

TITLE TBD

DATE TBD

▶▶▶ Beck's 2015 single "Dreams" whetted the appetites of fans who enjoyed his Grammy-winning *Morning Phase* but missed the pop-and-lock rhythms that dominated his early breakthroughs. Luckily, there's more of the latter to come on the 45-year-old's 13th album. "It's a lot more up-tempo," says "Dreams" co-writer/co-producer Greg Kurstin. "It reminds me of some of the stuff I heard from Beck when I first got into him, like *Odelay* and *Midnite Vultures*. It's really fun and beat-driven."

ARIANA GRANDE

TITLE TBD

DATE TBD

▶▶▶ Is the pop star's newest single, the fierce anthem "Focus," indicative of tracks on her third album? Not quite. "Growth is the key thing," says studio whiz Savan Kotecha, who's writing and producing much of it, along with Max Martin. "'Focus' was throwing something out there as a bridge to a new era. This is pretty diverse. People will be surprised." Expect Grande's incredible pipes to be at the forefront. "There's been a lot of goose-bump vocal moments," says Kotecha. "We've had moments of 'Oh my God, did she just do that?'"

WILL THEY OR WON'T THEY?

FROM GAGA TO KANYE, FIVE ARTISTS ARE STILL TOILING ON TOP SECRET ALBUMS. BY ERIC RENNER BROWN



LADY GAGA

Her 2014 collab with Tony Bennett won a Grammy. But an Instagram selfie from August captioned "LG5" suggests her fifth proper album is in the works.



Ariana Grande

JOJO
TITLE TBD
DATE TBD

►►► It's never too late to make a comeback if you're JoJo, the 25-year-old singer behind 2004's R&B smash "Leave (Get Out)." After nearly a decade out of the spotlight thanks to record-label drama—a binding contract prevented her from releasing new music—the Massachusetts native returns with a new label and a new album, which will feature her already released trio of songs "When Love Hurts," "Save My Soul," and "Say Love." As for the rest of the record, JoJo says, "There's a mix of hip-hop and R&B and dance, so I'm finding my way and what feels good to me. I just want to represent a young woman who's finding herself and falling in and out of s---."

GWEN STEFANI
TITLE TBD
DATE TBD

►►► The No Doubt frontwoman was poised to release a follow-up to her 2006 solo effort *The Sweet Escape* in 2015. But Stefani, 46, decided to scrap that collection. "It didn't feel right," she told EW in October, two months after she announced her split from her husband, Bush's Gavin Rossdale. "I needed to write some songs." Now Stefani, who dropped the single "Used to Love You" in late 2015, is working on an album that will feature hyper-personal songs. Says the singer: "[It's] about living in the moment, trying to be present and trying to feel."

WRITTEN BY KYLE ANDERSON, ARIANA BACLE, ERIC RENNER BROWN, CHRISTIAN HOLUB, AND KEVIN O'DONNELL

M83

ANTHONY GONZALEZ'S ELECTRONIC GROUP RETURNS WITH AN EPIC ALBUM INSPIRED BY CLASSIC TV SHOWS *PUNKY BREWSTER* AND *WHO'S THE BOSS?* **BY KEVIN O'DONNELL**



How do you top an album that earns you the biggest success of your career? If you're Anthony Gonzalez, mastermind of the electro-pop group M83, you go just as big. More than four years after releasing the sprawling, Grammy-nominated double LP *Hurry Up, We're*

Dreaming, the French-born artist has crafted a follow-up that's equally grand in scope. "It's a very strong album with a lot of eclecticism," says Gonzalez, who produced the songs with bassist Justin Meldal-Johnsen (Beck, Nine Inch Nails). M83's last album explored themes of youth and innocence, and Gonzalez says there's another narrative thread connecting all the songs here. Only this time, the tracks pay tribute to '70s and '80s TV. "Shows like *Punky Brewster* and *Who's the Boss?*" he says. "I feel like TV shows are starting to sound and look the same. There's no more passion anymore. So this album is a tribute to those old-fashioned shows." Sonically, he drew

upon his love of '70s music such as the Carpenters, but, he says, "I didn't want this to just be an album of ballads—there's up-tempo beats and epic moments, too." Another change this time around: Morgan Kibby, who provided vocals and keyboards on some of M83's most enduring songs, won't be returning. (She's working on her solo project *White Sea*.) Still, Gonzalez promises plenty of "unexpected" guests. "It's more fun and fresh than my last album," he says. "But it's good to take your listeners into a different maze, you know?"

Anthony Gonzalez



KANYE WEST

The MC focused on fashion and fatherhood in 2015, but he put out multiple songs, too. G.O.O.D. Music president Pusha T tells EW to expect an "incredible" album in 2016.



ARCADIE FIRE

Win Butler told EW last fall that the indie-rock heroes have recovered from releasing their 2013 double album *Reflektor*: "The next thing we do could change the world."



THE KILLERS

In November, singer Brandon Flowers revealed the Las Vegas rockers are "in the early stages" of writing for an album that "in a perfect world" will come out in late 2016.



KATY PERRY

The singer's manager reportedly said last May that Perry's fourth LP would be out "by 2016." Perry, meanwhile, has said she would "maybe" reinvent herself this time around.





"THE BIGGER YOU GET, THE SMALLER THE WORLD BECOMES"

ROXANE GAY IS ABOUT TO REVOLUTIONIZE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT BODY IMAGE WITH **HUNGER: A MEMOIR OF (MY) BODY**, OUT IN JUNE. WE TALKED TO THE CULTURAL CRITIC ABOUT WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WRITE ABOUT FOOD AND NOT FOCUS ON LOSING WEIGHT. BY MELISSA MAERZ



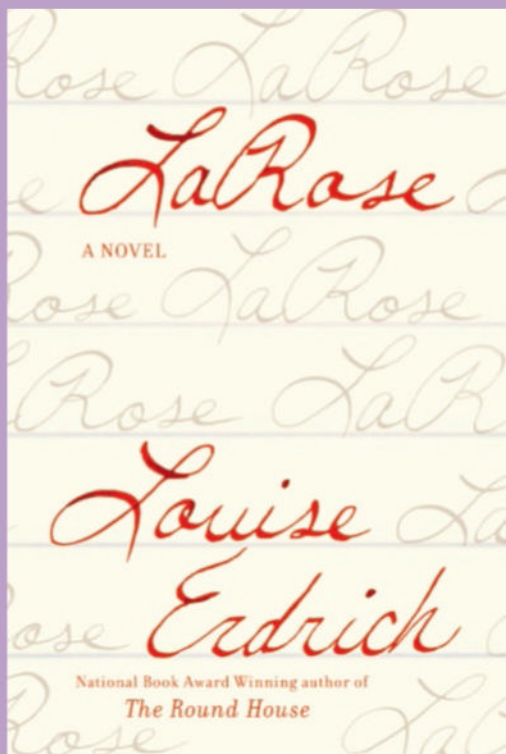
"This is not a book about triumph." That's the first line in *Hunger*, which—like Roxane Gay's essay collection, *Bad Feminist*—is fairly radical. Most memoirs about weight are inspirational, but *Hunger* is written from the perspective of a self-described obese woman who's not getting thinner. "I started this book fat, and I'm finishing it fat," says Gay. "This isn't a book about successful weight loss. It's about trying to change my relationship with food." On Twitter and her popular Tumblr, Gay creates an intimate relationship with readers by using details from her own life to explore the anxieties we share as a culture. In *Hunger*, she'll reveal what it

was like to grow up in a family of thin, attractive people, as well as how she coped with a brutal act of violence in her youth—two experiences that shaped her self-image. She'll describe how her size has changed the way she dresses and even the way she inhabits public space. "The bigger you get, the smaller the world becomes, because there are fewer places where you can feel comfortable," she explains. "You start to research restaurants to see if the chairs will accommodate you. You stop going to the movies or the beauty salon. Soon, you realize that the whole world might be your apartment, because there's no room for you out in the world." Gay has found small ways to take care of herself—not just by cooking healthier

meals but also by accepting her body as something that's worthy of love. She knows that this will be harder to do once *Hunger* comes out. Already, she's baffled by the insensitive way it's being covered in the media. One publication headlined an interview with her "Chewing the Fat With Roxane Gay." But to her, that reaction just proves that this book needed to be written. "It was putting the elephant in the room, so to speak," she says. "People will look, but they won't say anything, or they'll say something behind my back. So I decided to stop that game and say, 'You know what? I'm gonna talk about this. I'm gonna take control of the narrative—and of my body.'"

Roxane Gay

25 MUST-READ



CAN'T-WAIT MEMOIRS

1] A MOTHER'S RECKONING
Sue Klebold
FEB. 16
Dylan Klebold's mother shares her utterly devastating side of the 1999 Columbine tragedy.

2] REASONS TO STAY ALIVE
Matt Haig
FEB. 23
British journalist Haig has written a memoir of depression so painful and powerful that it's destined to become a modern classic.

3] UNTITLED
Tony Bennett
AUGUST
The rehabilitation of Bennett continues—and if this is his unvarnished story, it's one we're dying to read.

HOTTEST FICTION

4] THE QUEEN OF THE NIGHT
Alexander Chee
FEB. 2
The Second French Empire comes alive in the beautiful story of a courtesan-turned-Parisian opera star.

5] INNOCENTS AND OTHERS
Dana Spiotta
MARCH 8
The *Stone Arabia* novelist's anxiously awaited new work is about two best friends—both L.A. filmmakers—who tangle with a mysterious older woman who likes to seduce men over the phone.

6] THE NEST
Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney
MARCH 22
In one of 2016's most talked-about debuts, adult siblings squabble over their joint trust fund after their reckless brother Leo threatens to drain it.

7] THE LAST PAINTING OF SARA DE VOS
Dominic Smith
APRIL 5
Smith transports us from past to present and back again in this tale of a female Dutch painter and the forger behind the only painting she was known for.

8] ELIGIBLE
Curtis Sittenfeld
APRIL 19
In the *Prep* author's modern retelling of *Pride and Prejudice*, "Liz" Bennett is a magazine writer, Darcy is a pesky neurosurgeon, and Jane is a yoga teacher—but

first impressions are just as problematic.

9] IMAGINE ME GONE
Adam Haslett
MAY 3
Haslett's latest—one of spring's biggest books—is a heart-breaking, hilarious chronicle of one family struggling to love one another amid anxiety and depression.

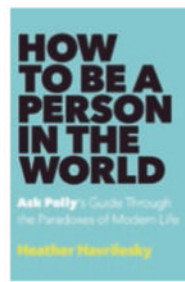
10] LAROSE
Louise Erdrich
MAY 10
When a man accidentally shoots his neighbor's 5-year-old son, both families deal with the emotional fallout.

11] SWEETBITTER
Stephanie Danler
MAY 24
Danler, working as a waitress, stunned the publishing world with her exquisite manuscript for *Sweetbitter*, the coming-of-age story of—wait for it—a Manhattan waitress.

12] MODERN LOVERS
Emma Straub
MAY 31
The author of 2014's summer hit *The Vacationers* focuses on a tight-knit set of college pals who now have college-age kids themselves.

THE **HOTTEST** TITLES OF 2016 INCLUDE BUZZY DEBUTS, STUNNING MEMOIRS, AND LONG-AWAITED NEW NOVELS FROM LITERARY HEAVYWEIGHTS SUCH AS LOUISE ERDRICH AND MICHAEL CHABON.
BY ISABELLA BIEDENHARN & TINA JORDAN

11

THE FIRST LOOK ISSUE EW.COM **85**

Movies

REEL NEWS

Matrix Reunion Keanu Reeves' *John Wick* sequel will fea-

ture a cameo by Laurence Fishburne. **Potter Pummeled**

The Force Awakens' \$57 million opening night slayed the

record previously held by Harry's *Deathly Hallows—Part 2*.

EDITED BY **BILL KEITH** @ipreferbill & **STEPHAN LEE** @stephanmlee



Anomalisa

STARRING

David Thewlis, Jennifer Jason Leigh,
Tom Noonan

DIRECTED BY

Charlie Kaufman and Duke Johnson

RATING

R

LENGTH

1 hr., 30 mins.

REVIEW BY

Chris Nashawaty @ChrisNashawaty



EVER SINCE HIS mind-bending screenwriting debut with 1999's *Being John Malkovich*, Charlie Kaufman has reigned as Hollywood's most playful storyteller. But despite his wildly ambitious premises and death-defying narrative techniques, there's always been more to his films than just formal trickery. He's a stuntman who understands that the stunt works only if it burrows its way into your heart as well as your head. That's why Kaufman movies such as 2002's *Adaptation* and 2004's *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* have

withstood the test of time. They're strange, yes. But strangely touching, too. Actually, I'd probably call the relationship between Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet in *Eternal Sunshine* the most powerful and honest expression of the mysteries of love I've seen in the past 15 years.

I wouldn't have thought it possible, but in his latest head trip, *Anomalisa* (which he wrote and codirected with Duke Johnson), Kaufman has nudged his penchant for wiggly experimentation a step further. He's not just bending the notion of romance into another Möbius-strip confection; he's also playing with form, telling his tale through a groovy version of stop-motion animation that makes it feel like Franz Kafka's remake of *Team America: World Police*...but, you know, with sympathy and soul.



British actor David Thewlis provides the voice of Michael Stone, a lonely middle-aged motivational speaker who flies to Cincinnati to rally a crowd of customer-service drones at a conference. The opening moments of the film allow the audience to gradually acclimate to its visual strangeness by focusing on the drudgeries of Michael's trip. He suffers through a chatty taxicab ride from the airport to his hotel, he checks in to his drab room, he orders room service and calls home to let his wife and son know he's arrived safely. He even makes a half-baked plan to meet an ex in the hotel bar that goes disastrously awry.

As routine as all of this sounds, it's clear that there's something odd going on here. Everyone Michael meets, whether male or female, speaks with the same affectless tone of voice (all provided by hangdog character actor Tom Noonan with dry perfection). Then he bumps into a female fan, who's...different. Her name is Lisa (Jennifer Jason Leigh), and even though she's the first to admit that she's nothing special in either the personality or looks department, the fact that she sounds like no one else enchants him in a way he can't explain. Which, actually, is as perfect a metaphor for finding your soul mate—the single person who speaks to us and us alone uniquely—as I've ever heard. In bed, after a round of surreal puppet sex that rivals the Kama Sutra stylings of Trey Parker and Matt Stone, he gives this one-of-a-kind woman he's determined to spend the rest of his life with the nickname Anomalisa.

It's obvious that Kaufman has always seen the world differently from the rest of us. And even if it takes a little time to settle into *Anomalisa's* disorienting, herky-jerky groove, Kaufman ends up bewitching us

with his fresh take on the oldest and most hackneyed of cinematic themes: boy meets girl...and anxiety ensues. *Anomalisa* is a staggeringly inventive Trojan horse of a film. It dazzles our senses with a shock of the new. And while we're trying to process what we're witnessing, he's slyly and subversively getting us to grapple with life's bigger and thornier questions—questions about love and happiness, selfishness and commitment, and most of all, whether we're content to walk numbly through our daily lives or instead be alive to its infinitely strange and beautiful possibilities. **A-**

THIS FILM CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING:



STOP-MOTION
NUDITY



JAPANESE
SEX ROBOT



CYNDI LAUPER



GOLF-CART
CRASH

THE BEST IN STOP-MOTION ANIMATION



1/ **Fantastic Mr. Fox**
(2009)

2/ **Anomalisa** (2015)

3/ **The Nightmare
Before Christmas**
(1993)

4/ **Wallace & Gromit:
The Curse of the
Were-Rabbit** (2005)

5/ **Chicken Run** (2000)

6/ **Shaun the Sheep
Movie** (2015)

7/ **Coraline** (2009)



CRITICAL MASS

For **10 current releases**, we compare EW's grade with scores averaged from IMDb, Metacritic, and Rotten Tomatoes

EW		IMDb	META- CRITIC	ROTTEN TOMATOES	AVG.
A-	45 YEARS	75	92	98	88
B+	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS ▲	87	81	95	88
A	SON OF SAUL	79	89	92	87
C+	THE HATEFUL EIGHT	86	82	87	85
A	THE BIG SHORT	82	82	85	83
B	THE REVENANT	87	80	82	83
B+	CONCUSSION	63	53	68	61
B	SISTERS	67	57	60	61
C-	JOY	—	57	64	61
C-	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	34	34	13	27



The New Swayze Edgar Ramirez

He's J. Law's husband in *Joy* and the philosopher thief **Bodhi** in *Point Break*, both out Dec. 25. Meet Hollywood's new It Guy.
By Keith Staskiewicz

He's got some pretty major water socks to fill, but as the star of the new *Point Break* remake, Edgar Ramirez, 38, is ripping a page from the book of Bodhi and just taking it as it comes.

EW You flew all around the world for *Point Break*. What was the most extreme thing you did?

EDGAR RAMIREZ The rock-climbing sequence was very extreme. That happened in my home country of Venezuela. I was hanging from a rope off the top of Angel Falls—the highest waterfall in the world. Had I fallen, not only would I have died but my body would never have been found.

Sounds like fun.

Well, we were always following a very strict safety protocol. Almost all of the hard stuff was done by real athletes. They did stuff like the wingsuit scene, where they are flying through a crack in a formation, stuff that not only had never been caught on film before but had never been done before in history.

Was the whole shoot like that?

It was a very energy-consuming film. It constantly felt like an expedition. Even when we were shooting the dramatic scenes below the waterfall, we were totally soaked, and the difference between shadow and sun was probably 20 degrees, and that's Celsius.

So was that more or less intense than working with director David O. Russell on *Joy*?

Well, it was also extremely athletic working with David. He's his own force of nature.

What are you filming now?

I'm currently in production on *The Girl on the Train*, but I spent the whole summer in the jungles of Thailand doing *Gold* with Matthew McConaughey.

You're really into on-location shooting, huh?

I've been traveling all my life. My father was a military attaché, so we traveled a lot. I love changing environments and going from one place to another. After *Point Break*, I couldn't wait to go back into the wilderness and interact with nature again. It was tough, but it was great. The jungle is a very, very specific kind of place. I love the adventure of going to far-off places to shoot. I hate it when I have to be on a stage or in a studio filming. That's when I get sad. Craft services isn't that hard: Just put some things in a bag, and you're ready to go.

How did you approach taking on the character of Bodhi, famously played by Patrick Swayze in the original *Point Break*?



▲ (From top) With Jennifer Lawrence in *Joy*; in *Point Break*

Obviously, it's a challenge to rise up to, but Bodhi as a character is all about making choices and taking full responsibility for what he chooses to do. That's something I can relate to. You want to surf that wave, but that wave isn't always going to be there when you want it.

Seems like it could also be an acting philosophy.

Pretty much! It's the same as you don't know if movies are going to do good, but if you choose a movie for the right reasons, even if it's just for yourself, then it doesn't matter what happens. God knows what'll happen with my films once I'm done with them, but no one can take that experience away from me.



Kristen
Stewart in
Anesthesia



ALSO PLAYING

Anesthesia

R, 1 HR., 30 MINS.

The title implies numbness, but writer-director Tim Blake Nelson seems to want viewers to feel every last thing, piling on enough characters and Big Issue plotlines—cancer, addiction, infidelity, depression, even murder—to fill a semester's worth of screenwriting classes. The cast (which includes Glenn Close, Sam Waterston, Kristen Stewart, and Corey Stoll) is strong, but the movie itself is a little exhausting, like a New York cousin to Paul Haggis' *Crash*, with a smaller budget and a bigger vocabulary. **B-**

—Leah Greenblatt

L I V

Lamb

NR, 1 HR., 36 MINS.

The life of David Lamb (Ross Partridge) is in middle-aged shambles—his dad has just died, his wife has left him, and his boss would like him to take a long break—when he meets a precocious 11-year-old named Tommie (Oona Laurence) in an L.A. parking lot and sweeps her away on a spontaneous road trip. Based on a lauded 2011 novel of the same name, *Lamb* is about as strange as it sounds: a Lolita story almost more unsettling for the lines it doesn't explicitly cross. **C+**

—Leah Greenblatt

L I V

Yosemite

R, 1 HR., 22 MINS.

Adapted from James Franco's short stories and told in three acts (each following a different fifth-grade boy), this quiet, contemplative film focuses on suburban Palo Alto in 1985 as a mountain lion skulks around the edge of town. Franco gives one of his most subtle performances yet as a recovering-alcoholic father, and the three young newcomers' performances are honest and affecting, capturing what it feels like to be adrift and on the verge of adolescence. **B**

—Devan Coggan

L

GAME OF THRONES' NATALIE DORMER CHARGES INTO THE FOREST

Natalie Dormer's résumé reads like a roster of today's hottest pop culture phenomenons: *Captain America*, *The Hunger Games* series, and, of course, her role as the scheming Margaery on *Game of Thrones*. Now she's trying her hand at a supernatural thriller in *The Forest*, starring as an American who tracks her missing twin sister to Japan's Aokigahara forest, where thousands have gone to commit suicide. There, she has to confront not only the ghastly souls that wander the woods but also her own troubled past. "It's kind of a nod, in the most compassionate terms,

to what happens when people go into the real Aokigahara forest to contemplate their mortality," Dormer says. "They're reflecting on their demons." Since filming in the actual forest—located at the base of Mount Fuji—is prohibited, much of the film was shot in Serbia, but Dormer did visit Aokigahara when she was in Japan for principal photography. "I felt a responsibility to get up there if I could," she says. "I didn't feel any negativity. I didn't feel any evil or nastiness. I just felt sort of philosophical and sad, to be honest, that people go there to make that decision. It really makes you contemplate, especially when it's such an otherwise beautiful place." —Devan Coggan



EW MORE ON EW.COM For our reviews of *Son of Saul* and *Sisters* (both out now), go to EW.com

KEY L = LIMITED RELEASE I = ITUNES V = VOD

Streaming

THE STANDOUT TITLES COMING (AND GOING) IN JANUARY. BY SHIRLEY LI @shirklesxp



BINGE!
WATCH ALL 7 SEASONS



1 **HBO NOW** **MAD MAX: FURY ROAD**

A gas-guzzling chase through a sandstorm! A maniac shredding a flaming guitar! Charlize Theron as a road warrior hell-bent on finding an oasis! Witness this epic, lovely day—just don't forget to scrape your jaw off the floor afterward.

MOVIE | JAN. 9

2 **NETFLIX** **PARKS AND RECREATION** SEASON 7

In a final season that's touching and gut-busting, Leslie (Amy Poehler) works a new job while attempting to keep her old friends close (and her waffles even closer).

TV | JAN. 13

3 **AMAZON** **DAZED AND CONFUSED**

Richard Linklater's seminal, spirited (or maybe just stoned?) coming-of-age comedy stars Matthew McConaughey in one of his first roles that's—you got it—*alright, alright, alright*.

MOVIE | JAN. 1

4 **HULU** **FEAR THE WALKING DEAD** SEASON 1

Feast on this zombie prequel, in which a broken family faces the end of the world—while facing off with one another.

BEST EPISODE > "The Good Man" (EP. 6) The series is at its most frightening when walkers descend on a military base full of survivors.

TV | JAN. 26

5 **HULU** **BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S**

Grab a pastry and join the inimitable Audrey Hepburn in this classic about eccentric Manhattanite Holly Golightly, who's not what she seems.

MOVIE | JAN. 1

6 **NETFLIX** **I'LL HAVE WHAT PHIL'S HAVING** SEASON 1

Everybody Loves Raymond creator Phil Rosenthal has cooked up



the perfect culinary-show recipe: Combine a bushel of tasty dishes, a dash of world travel, and a pinch of celebrity (including Allison Janney), and serve.

TV | JAN. 2

7 **AMAZON** **MARGIN CALL**

The 2008 financial crisis gets the thriller treatment in this tale about those who weren't too big to fail. (It also pairs well with this year's *The Big Short*.)

MOVIE | JAN. 4

8 **NETFLIX** **THE LAST FIVE YEARS**

Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan sing and shed tears as lovers recounting their bitter-sweet relationship in opposing chronology.

MOVIE | JAN. 15

LAST CALL TO WATCH...

Gone Girl (HBO Now) 12.31 | *Drive* (Crackle) 12.31 | *The LEGO Movie* (HBO Now) 12.31

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TV

▶ LOGLINES

Not So Awesomes Hulu has canceled Seth Meyers'

animated superhero series after three seasons. **Grinding**

With Maya Rudolph The SNL alum has been cast as a

therapist for a multi-episode arc on Fox's *The Grinder*.

EDITED BY AMY WILKINSON @amymwilk



▲ Laura Carmichael, Elizabeth McGovern, and Michelle Dockery

Downton Abbey

DATE	TIME	NETWORK	REVIEW BY
Premieres Jan. 3	9 p.m.*	PBS	Jeff Jensen @EWDocJensen



IT'S THE END of the world as *Downton Abbey* knows it, and no one is feeling fine about it. The final season of the English import is set in 1925, and the privileged, provincial life of Robert Crawley (Hugh Bonneville) and his blue-blood lot is falling out of favor and draining their coffers. With his neighbors liquidating and downsizing, slashing the help and relocating to the city, the Earl of Grantham wonders how long before he must do the same. No one is more nervous about Downton's changing fortunes than chief of staff Carson (Jim Carter) and his crew of underbutlers, housekeepers, footmen, chauffeurs, cooks, scullery maids, and valets who depend on the Abbey for their livelihood. Call it trickle-down anxiety. "Neither you nor I can hold back

time," Robert tells Carson in the premiere. "Who has an underbutler these days?!"

Bowing out at a moment when a new kind of royally soapy *Empire* reigns supreme, *Downton Abbey* chases a graceful exit with knowing melodrama about irrelevancy-challenged people pursuing the same thing. As is always the case in this dense and sprawling enterprise, the results vary from scene to scene, by turns wise and sentimental, condescending and hilarious. The season is best when it attends to the fears and fury of those in the underclass at risk of becoming even more marginalized by social flux. No one sweats more than Thomas (Robert James-Collier), the gay underbutler. Certain he'll be the first sacked, Thomas, ever the proactive striver, begins searching for new employment, an increasingly despairing quest, frustrated by bigotry and his own pride. It's a powerful, resonant arc.



Younger Again

The secret's (partially) out: Fortysomething Liza's (**Sutton Foster**) cover as a thoroughly modern millennial has been blown to boyfriend Josh (Nico Tortorella). What comes next when season 2 premieres Jan. 13 at 10 p.m. on TV Land? Foster and *Younger* creator **Darren Star** dish. By **Samantha Highfill**

DREAM DOWNTON SPIN-OFFS



ARISTOCRACY AND THE CITY

A workplace comedy starring plucky magazine magnate Edith



TOP PATMORE

Downton's cook oversees not-so-quick fires and Dinner Service Wars.



DOWNTON'S NEXT TOP DOG

Lord Grantham auditions replacement pooches.



THE ODD CRAWLEYS

The Dowager and Isobel move in together, exchange bons mots for life.

▼ Maggie Smith



But it's the women of *Downton Abbey* who drive the show. Writer Julian Fellowes imbues them with authority—Mary (Michelle Dockery) runs the business of the estate; Edith (Laura Carmichael) takes the reins of a magazine—and sits back and watches them use it. Sometimes he sits back too much, more content with symbolic statements than drama. One exception pits the Dowager Countess (Maggie Smith), Isobel (Penelope Wilton), and Cora (Elizabeth McGovern) against one another as they debate a plan to modernize the local hospital they oversee through a merger. The bickering grows tedious, but builds to a defining moment.

More relational mergers and more personal gender politics charge the season's second half. The sweet late-life romance between Carson and Mrs. Hughes (Phyllis Logan) turns comically sour and feeds the show's interest in patriarchal humbling as the exacting, controlling bachelor butler adjusts poorly to his new relationship status. Just when everything starts to drag, Matthew Goode's coolly charismatic race-car enthusiast Henry Talbot roars back into the saga and guns it for Mary. Their fraught courtship gathers up the season's themes of letting go and moving on, power and privilege, and sets up a series finale (not made available to the press) that promises to be an emotional doozy for those who give a crumpet. **B**

EW Now that Josh knows Liza's secret, how will their relationship be affected?

SUTTON FOSTER A big part of what season 2 is about is how much of this relationship was based on a lie, and can Josh handle this? When we started filming, Nico and I were like, "We're looking at each other differently! Oh, no, our relationship has changed!"

Could the show ever exist without this secret at the heart?

DARREN STAR I do see a day when everybody can know—it's just not where the story is going right now. Ultimately, the story's about how women and people of different generations interact,

and it plays with the perception of age and how important that is to people, and so there are real stakes for Liza in terms of keeping her age a secret.

Are there any new faces we should watch for?

STAR We have some great guest stars. Matthew Morrison is on the show. Kathy Najimy comes back. Dolly [Wells] from *Doll & Em*. She's fantastic. Ice-T!

Darren, do you ever look at your roster and think, "We really need to do a drunk karaoke night"?

STAR No, I think that's the one thing

I promised them—no karaoke. We have a Broadway musical in the making, but we're going to resist.

Given that Liza is dating a tattoo artist, would she ever get inked?

FOSTER I actually do think she would. It would probably be something to do with her daughter, something that can't be seen.

Millennial references are a big part of *Younger*. What's on the docket for season 2?

FOSTER There's a Periscope reference. I think Snapchat.

STAR I'm still not sure what Periscoping is.

FOSTER I have no idea.

▼ Sutton Foster and Nico Tortorella



The Shannara Chronicles

DATE Debuts Jan. 5 | TIME 10 p.m. | NETWORK MTV

REVIEW BY Melissa Maerz @MsMelissaMaerz

▶ **THE SHANNARA CHRONICLES** might be the most ambitious scripted drama ever to air on MTV. Based on Terry Brooks' fantasy books, it features panoramic shots of New Zealand, epic battle scenes capped off with the beheadings of evil winged beasts, and a story that involves two elves, Amberle (Poppy Drayton) and Wil (Austin Butler), who set out on a journey through the Four Lands to save a dying magical tree that protects the realm from demons. To get any more specific than that, I'd have to consult an all-knowing druid, because the plot is so insanely complicated that most of the dialogue is pure exposition, with characters either explaining what happened ("Amberle left the party upset, and you found her out here; you two got into a fight, and now she's missing!") or asking questions that clarify the rules of the Four Lands for viewers ("I don't understand. If he really has escaped the Forbidding, why doesn't he attack himself?").

The world-building is imaginative and impressive, but the mythology is exhausting to keep up with, especially when the reward is basically just a romance-novel version of *The Lord of the Rings*, complete with courtly hand-kissing and sexy elfin bubble baths. I actually laughed during an arduous early death scene where Wil's sickly mother attempts to pass her late husband's magical elf stones on to Wil, while explaining the backstory: "I know you thought [gasping for breath] your father was crazy [gasping for breath], but he was a good man [gasping for breath]! He believed [gasping for breath] in those!" If you were dying, wouldn't you just point to the stones and say, "Magic! Take!?" The scene requires enough energy to kill the magic for Wil's poor mother—and for the rest of us. **C**



▲ Austin Butler and Poppy Drayton

POSTCARD
FROM
THE SET

Jennifer Lopez Cops to The Drama

The actress serves and protects in her new role as an NYPD detective in NBC's **Shades of Blue** (debuting Jan. 7 at 10 p.m.). We walk the beat with her.

By Nina Terrero

JENNY IS STAKING out the block. It's a soggy November afternoon on the Queens set of Lopez's new NBC drama, *Shades of Blue*, and in this particular scene, clad in baggy jeans and a bulky gray overcoat, she deliberately climbs a flight of stairs to a single-family house to broker a deal.

"It's not a gift," says Lopez's detective Harlee Santos, handing over a fat bag of hush money. "It's a payment." Over the next hour, Lopez methodically nails line after line, all while tilting her head with a practiced precision gained from 25 years of acting in music videos, movies, and TV. She knows how to work her angles.

But after starring in last summer's surprise hit *The Boy Next Door*, Lopez wasn't exactly angling for more screen time when NBC asked her to consider the lead role in the project that she had originally pitched as a producer more than two years ago with longtime collaborator Elaine Goldsmith-Thomas. "I definitely wasn't looking for an acting role on TV," says Lopez. "But NBC's response was really strong, and they were like, 'How are you *not* playing this role?'"

Returning to a scripted drama for the first time since the short-lived '90s crime series *Second Chances* wasn't an easy sell for Lopez. "I was like, 'Oh, s---, here

we go,'" she recalls. "It's a hard gig, the hour drama. But there's one reason why I did it: The material was so good."

In *Shades of Blue*, Lopez, 46, plays a cop who's part of a tight-knit unit in Brooklyn and faces some morally murky territory when she's tapped as an FBI informant. Police corruption plays a major role on the show, which Lopez promises won't tiptoe around sensitive subjects like unarmed shootings and evidence manipulation. "It's called *Shades of Blue* for a reason, since between right and wrong, there's a lot of gray area," says Lopez. "At the end of the day, it's based on society and what's happening."

Behind the scenes, Lopez also acts as executive producer, making decisions on everything from scripts to casting, handpicking costars Drea de Matteo, who plays a tough-talking detective, and—the GoodFella himself—Ray Liotta, who takes on the role of Harlee's bristly boss. "Working with Ray Liotta and the rest of



THE SHANNARA CHRONICLES: KIRSTY GRIFFIN/MTV



▲ (Top and above) Jennifer Lopez and Ray Liotta; (left) Drea de Matteo and Vincent Laresca

the cast, it's always pushing the bar and raising it," Lopez says. "It's very intense."

The same could be said of Lopez's scrupulous attention to styling. As Harlee—a single mom more occupied with school tuition than fashion magazines—Lopez rocks a pared-down look miles from her usual sexy style. "It's a total make-different," she says of the cropped 'do she sports. "I thought, 'Growing up in the Bronx, if I became a cop, what would I look like right now? My hair would still be curly, I'd have cut it.'"

“
I HAVEN'T
REALLY HAD
THE CHANCE TO
PLAY THIS
COMPLICATED
OF A
CHARACTER IN
A VERY
LONG TIME.”
—JENNIFER LOPEZ

Though Lopez has made plenty of other changes to accommodate her small-screen role—she's moved to New York with her 7-year-old twins for the duration of shooting and flies cross-country to judge *American Idol* on weekends—she has no plans to ditch music or film in favor of full-time TV. "I don't have to give up one thing for another," says Lopez, whose six-month residency at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas begins in late January. "I'm doing stuff I've never done," she says. "It's good."

WHAT'S ON MY DVR

Before chef **Gordon Ramsay** ties on his apron for the return of *MasterChef Junior* (Jan. 8 at 8 p.m. on Fox), he reveals his must-watch shows—and the perfect snack pairing

► Empire

The drama, the music, the family dynamic—it's such good fun. I can see so many parallels to a family-run restaurant... Speaking of which, I'm still waiting for Lucious to call me about that restaurant of his! **SNACK PAIRING** Something sweet but spicy, like Cookie, so sriracha-honey-glazed popcorn.



► American Ninja Warrior

The athletes are on a completely different level, and I love watching their grit and determination. **SNACK PAIRING** Watching, you want to feel like you're training to be a Ninja Warrior, so I go for a fruit-and-nut bar—it's what I snack on when I'm training.



► Mr. Robot

I love technology and drama, and *Mr. Robot* delivers on both so brilliantly. I still have a few episodes left on my DVR, so no spoilers! **SNACK PAIRING** A funnel cake will make you feel like you're about to enter Mr. Robot's headquarters on the boardwalk.



What to Watch

A DAY-TO-DAY GUIDE TO NOTABLE PROGRAMS* BY RAY RAHMAN @RayRahman



**MUST
WATCH
OF THE
WEEK**

Series Debut

ANGIE TRIBECA

SUNDAY, JAN. 17–MONDAY, JAN. 18 | 9PM (SUNDAY)–10PM (MONDAY) | TBS

For as long as there have been serious cop dramas, there have been goofy cop comedies. So what can this entry from creators Steve and Nancy Carell bring to the genre that *Police Academy*, *Reno 911!*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, and all the rest couldn't? Two words: Rashida Jones. The *Parks and Recreation* vet's comedic talents are on full blast as LAPD detective Angie Tribeca, a lone wolf forced to play nice with her new partner (Hayes MacArthur). *Tribeca* mines procedurals like *Law & Order* and *CSI* for its material—while solving a blackmail case in the pilot, a character shouts, “Make look big!” at a computer screen when “Enhance!” doesn't work, and Tribeca is prone to putting on her sunglasses with import. The show follows in the grand tradition of Leslie Nielsen; each episode is stuffed with enough deadpan puns and slapstick gags to fill an *Airplane!* It's no wonder TBS is debuting the series with a 25-hour marathon: *Tribeca* is the kind of easy, lightweight fun that never gets old. **B+**

MONDAY JANUARY 4



Season Premiere

► **The Bachelor**

8–10PM | ABC

The Bachelor celebrates its 20th season with Ben, the handsome 26-year-old Midwesterner who became a fan favorite during Kaitlyn's recent *Bachelorette* season. For the premiere, expect twins, the return of two former cast members, and a first kiss within seconds of meeting. “[Someone] came out a little aggressive,” host Chris Harrison tells us. But he also says not to anticipate too much making out, at least for now: “Ben was a little slower to get going. But once he did, he felt just fine.” As for those infamous contestant job titles, well... “I think *eccentric* is a good word to describe them,” Harrison laughs. Indeed—what is a “chicken enthusiast,” anyway? —Robyn Ross

► **Superstore**

8–8:30PM | NBC

Everyone at work gets obsessed with a mannequin that exactly resembles Jonah. Yes, even *there*.

► **Supergirl**

8–9PM | CBS

Kara denies being Supergirl to her boss. Smart move: With great power comes a greater workload.

► **Superhuman**

8–10PM | FOX

That's right, it's the third “super” show of the night! Hosted by Kal Penn, this one-night competition special tests 12 ordinary people who each have “a distinct, nearly superhuman ability.” The winner will have to fight Batman.

► **The Breaks**

9–11PM | VH1

Set in New York City circa 1990, the made-for-TV movie centers on three hip-hop-loving friends trying to make their mark on the music industry. So it's sort of like *Empire* but with 100 percent less Cookie.

ICE CAPADE

► **Scorpion**

9–10PM | CBS

The team travel to Antarctica to rescue one of their own from a disaster. Olaf, what have you gotten into this time?!



ANGIE TRIBECA: TYLER GOLDEN/TBS; THE BACHELOR: CRAIG S. JOBIN/ABC; SCORPION: SONJA FLEMING/CBS

TUESDAY JANUARY 5



Season Premiere

► New Girl

8-8:30PM FOX

"It's time for the characters to grow a little bit," showrunner Liz Meriwether says of the impossibly immature, endlessly entertaining bunch at the center of *New Girl*. "They're not good at being adults." See: The season 5 premiere includes Jess (Zooey Deschanel) hijacking a neighbor's motor scooter, Winston (Lamorne Morris) deploying one of his terrible pranks, and Nick (Jake Johnson) accidentally kidnapping someone. "We're like *Scandal*," Meriwether jokes. "Just twists and turns and constant surprises." Not to mention new faces: Peter Gallagher and Fred Armisen stop by in future eps, and Megan Fox will enjoy an extended stay during Deschanel's maternity leave. —Ariana Bacile

Season Premiere

► Hollywood Game Night

8-9PM NBC

Also known as *Best Time Ever Without Neil Patrick Harris*.

► Brooklyn Nine-Nine

9-9:30PM FOX

The sitcom moves to a new night and time, so make a note in your Andy Samberg pinup calendar.

Series Debut

► Killing Fields

10-11PM DISCOVERY

Call it the *Serial* effect: Discovery makes its own series that takes viewers through an active murder investigation (the 1997 death of a student in Louisiana) in real time.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6

Season Premiere

► American Crime

10-11PM ABC

Not to be confused with *American Crime Story*—that's the O.J. Simpson one—this anthology drama returns with the same core cast but a different intriguing premise: When public high school student Taylor (Connor Jessup) accuses members of a private school's basketball team of sexual assault, it forces the community to confront their own issues with sexual orientation and class. The adults' heated conversations can feel more like textbook debates than natural dialogue. But the acting is phenomenal, led by Lili Taylor as Taylor's mother and Regina King as the mother of one of the accused. And thanks in part to the intimate directing style, which zooms in on these imperfect teenage faces, you feel like you know these kids. **B+** —Melissa Maerz



THURSDAY JANUARY 7



Season Premiere

► Lip Sync Battle

10-11PM SPIKE

Channing Tatum takes on wife Jenna Dewan Tatum. That's right, it's a Tatum-off!

Season Premiere

► Todd Margaret

10-11:30PM IFC

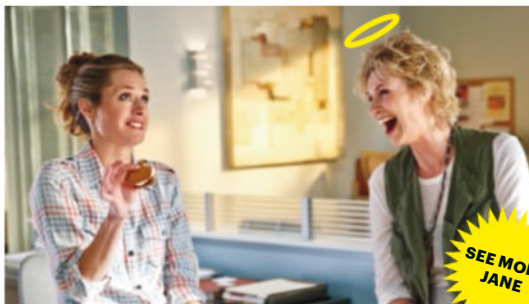
Looking for a reason to catch up on this American-in-London comedy as it enters its third season? Here are three: David Cross, Sharon Horgan, and Will Arnett.

Series Debut

► Angel From Hell

9:30-10PM CBS

Take Juliet from *Psych* (Maggie Lawson) and make her a dermatologist named Allison. Give her a guardian angel named Amy (Jane Lynch), a slightly nicer but much drunker version of *Glee*'s Sue Sylvester. Throw in a few familiar comedy character actors (hey there, Kyle Bornheimer), a handful of familiar tropes, and a sprinkling of dirty jokes, and you have CBS' *Angel From Hell*. The sitcom certainly isn't breaking new ground, but that won't stop you from laughing more than once. As a guardian angel, Amy is the worst, but as an actress, Lynch is saving the show. That's more than enough reason to give *Angel* a shot, at least until it earns its wings. **B-** —Dalene Rovenstine



SEE MORE JANE

FRIDAY JANUARY 8

► Last Man Standing

8-8:31PM ABC

Someone give Tim Allen a chair already!

► Reign

8-9PM THE CW

Mary realizes that instead of following her heart, she must marry for the good of her country (and maybe also for ratings).

Series Debut

► Ex Isle

10-11PM WETV

Hosted by Carmen Electra, the show puts five sets of exes on an island to find closure. In a sad twist, all the couples met on Electra's first dating show, MTV's *Singled Out*.

► Hawaii Five-O

9-10PM CBS

Cue the trust falls: McGarrett and Danny go to a couples retreat in Maui to resolve their partnership issues.



SATURDAY JANUARY 9



Season Premiere

► MythBusters

8-9PM | DISCOVERY

For the final season of *MythBusters*, cohosts Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage aren't preoccupied with building a legacy so much as delivering bigger, better versions of the show's most famous experiments. "We considered iconic categories that we had to go to in order to say goodbye," Savage says. "And explosions are precisely what we're best known for." So to kick things off, the guys take on a different type of explosive—they'll try to traverse a field of land mines via hovercraft. "It was a lot of fun," Hyneman says of the risky experiment. "What [hovercrafts] can do on an open field or muddy swamp, there's nothing like it." —Christian Holub



► Austin City Limits

9-10PM* | PBS

The live-music series brings on the man behind 2015's best album: Kendrick Lamar. *check local listings

► J. Cole Forest Hills Drive: Homecoming

10-11:30PM | HBO

Hankering for more hip-hop? This concert doc has J. Cole returning home to Fayetteville, N.C., for a special show that includes guests Jay Z and Drake.

SUN JAN 10

► The 73rd Annual Golden Globe Awards

8-11PM | NBC

Is *Game of Thrones* better than *Empire*? Was *The Martian* a better comedy than *Trainwreck*? Who will host Ricky Gervais offend the most? Tune in tonight, and all will be revealed.

► The Good Wife

9-10PM | CBS

The Florricks board a bus to Iowa, and will hopefully pick up Danny Bonaduce along the way and start a family rock band.

Season Premiere

► Shameless

9-10PM | SHOWTIME

The return of the Gallaghers, who will definitely not start a family rock band.

MON JAN 11

Season Premiere

► Cake Wars

9-10PM | FOOD

May the flour be with you: Season 3 gets under way with four bakers competing to make a cake for a *Star Wars*-themed party.

HIGHER EDUCATION

► The Marijuana Revolution

9-11PM | HISTORY

The doc explores the impact cannabis has had on America, complete with footage from your old college dorm room.



TUES JANUARY 12



► MADtv 20th Anniversary Reunion

8-9PM | THE CW

The event every self-respecting comedy nerd has been waiting for! Okay, that might be a bit much—*SNL 40* this isn't—but the bygone Fox sketch series left a surprisingly impressive legacy. Keegan-Michael Key, Alex Borstein, Ike Barinholtz: all alums. And they'll all be at this "glamorous" "awards" "ceremony." Lorne Michaels can't have all the fun, right?



Series Debut

► Second Chance

9-10PM | FOX

A riff on the *Frankenstein* tale, this one's got a doozy of a premise: A 75-year-old former sheriff is killed, only to come back to life as a superstrong young man (Rob Kazinsky) thanks to a pair of billionaire tech twins with their own motives. It's pretty ridiculous, but also oddly compelling at moments. Well, mostly moments that involve Kazinsky, who seems to be the only one in on the joke. The driving plot feels *Diet Wayward Pines* (and it's saddled with clichés to boot), but at least Kazinsky's having a good time. **B-**

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13

Series Debut

► Teachers

11-11:30PM | TV LAND

Teachers: They're weird, right? What are they doing in those secret little rooms, anyway? This irreverent sitcom takes a guess, and the results are darkly funny. The pilot features six rowdy, self-involved educators (all played by the members of the Katy-dids improv group, who also created the show) who are tasked with implementing an antibullying program. Predictably, they suck at it. It's as if the *Heathers* from *Heathers* grew up without growing up. Not every joke in the pilot is worthy of a gold star, but they deserve some extra credit for effort. **B**





THURSDAY JANUARY 14



Series Debut

► **Colony**

10-11PM | USA

As *Lost* fans know, Josh Holloway is a star in need of the right role. *Colony*, a hybrid sci-fi/spy series (spy-fi?) from *Lost* EP Carlton Cuse, may not measure up to their first hit, but it (fingers crossed) has potential. Holloway stars as Will, a man living in an L.A. that's been invaded by an unknown presence; the premiere finds him drafted to infiltrate a resistance group. The setup leaves Holloway as a person torn between two bad choices—a spot in which the actor thrives—and the mystery of who now rules L.A. should be enough to keep you interested. *Colony* could be the answer Holloway has been searching for. **B** —Kevin P. Sullivan

► **The World Dog Awards**

8-10PM | THE CW

But we'll never know who the winners are—the dogs keep biting the guy with all the envelopes.

Season Premiere

► **Workaholics**

10-10:30PM

COMEDY CENTRAL

Plus a few new hires: Whitney Cummings, Pauly Shore, and Andy Dick are among this season's guests.

Series Debut

► **Idiotsitter**

10:30-11PM

COMEDY CENTRAL

A Harvard grad takes a job "babysitting" a bratty adult heiress. Just like her career counselor predicted!

FRI JAN 15

Season Premiere

► **Degrassi: Next Class**

STREAMING | NETFLIX

*Entertainment Weekly Canada** gives the new season an "Eh plus" grade! *not a real thing

Season Premiere

► **Hell's Kitchen**

9-10PM | FOX

Ramsay's chefs make "undercooked [censored] chicken," "absolutely [censored] lamb sauce," and "[censored] [censored] nonstick pan [censored]."

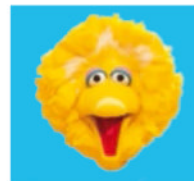
Season Premiere

► **Real Time With Bill Maher**

10-11PM | HBO

Come for the Trump jokes, stay for the Trump jokes.

SAT JAN 16



Season Premiere

► **Sesame Street**

9-10AM | HBO

Now that Big Bird and the gang are on premium cable, expect plenty of full-frontal puppetry.

► **Tiny House Hunting**

9-9:30PM | FYI

The show heads to California, where a family of three look for a small dwelling in San Diego. How about a cardboard box? Do they not have those there?

SUNDAY JANUARY 17

► **The 21st Annual Critics' Choice Awards**

8-11PM | A&E, LIFETIME

The Oscars are only 42 days away, so consider this your dry run.

Series Debut

► **Billions**

10-11PM | SHOWTIME

A tough prosecutor (Paul Giamatti) suspects a billionaire finance exec (Damian Lewis) of wrongdoing. As for me, I think *anyone* making more than a billion dollars is doing something right, and I'll gladly say that to their face if they want to take me out to dinner.



Series Debut

► **The Real Housewives of Potomac**

9-10PM | BRAVO

The newest opus in the *Housewives* oeuvre proposes a battle of passive aggression under the guise of "etiquette," as two breakout divas—Karen, a doyenne married to "the black Bill Gates," and Gizelle, a pastor's ex-wife with a dirty mind—engage in a duel of decorum after Gizelle sits in Karen's seat at her birthday dinner. Six cast members sit firmly on either side of the *Great Gatsby* clash between old and new money, promising that when Gizelle calls herself a man's "pound cake," half will clutch their pearls while the other half clutch their martinis. **B-** —Marc Snetiker

Series Debut

► **Mercy Street**

10-11PM* | PBS

PBS' latest works the medical angle, set at a field hospital in Alexandria, Va., during the early years of the Civil War. Revolving around an abolitionist-leaning nurse (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) and a Confederate sympathizer (Hannah James), *Mercy Street* sets up a story that's slow-moving but stirring, with a rich depiction of the social and cultural shifts taking place across the nation. Supporting characters, including an African-American freeman and his laundress sweetheart, flip the script on the usual upstairs-downstairs drama in a way that feels particularly fresh. **A-** —Nina Terrero *check local listings



Music

EDITED BY KEVIN O'DONNELL @ODtron

▶ NOTEWORTHY

Michael Jackson's *Thriller* has been certified

30 times platinum by the RIAA—a first for any album.

LL Cool J has been tapped to host the Grammys for the

fifth time; the 58th annual ceremony airs Feb. 15 on CBS.

12 Hot Songs to Hear Now

Postholiday blues got you down? Jump-start your 2016 playlist with EW's favorite new tunes.

▶ 1. Prince

"XTRALOVEABLE"

His Purpleness dropped another surprise album, *HITNRUN Phase Two*, on Tidal in December. The highlight of his latest funk grenade? This übersexy, horn-powered number, on which pop's most notorious lothario politely pleads, "If ever, honey, you need someone to take a shower with, girl, call me up, please."





◀ (Clockwise, from top left) Hinds, Banners, Savages, Chairlift, and Panic! at the Disco



▶ 2. Cam

"Runaway Train"

The Grammy-nominated Nashville newcomer takes a page from Miranda Lambert's revenge-fantasy playbook with this barn burner. "When there's nothing but wreckage and flames and your misery is all that remains," she howls, "I'll feel human again." That's cold, girl, but we like it.

na-na-nas—proving Hinds are one of 2016's most badass newcomers.

▶ 4. Banners

"Start a Riot"

With a croon as acrobatic as Jeff Buckley's, U.K. artist Mike Nelson delivers an uplifting anthem about the lengths he'd go to for his lady.

▶ 5. Chance the Rapper

"Somewhere in Paradise"

Chicago's cultural ambassador offers a soulful taste of his in-the-works third mixtape: It's powered by swelling horns, a gospel choir, and guest spots from Jeremih and R. Kelly. "They screaming Chano for mayor, I'm thinking maybe I should," he proclaims. Judging by

this, that's not such a ridiculous idea.

▶ 6. DIIV

"Under the Sun"

On the indie-rock group's upcoming album, *Is the Is Are*, frontman Zachary Cole Smith bares his soul on songs that address his addiction and relapse, but there's a glimmer of hope on this propulsive rocker, which he penned for his girlfriend, indie singer-songwriter Sky Ferreira.

▶ 7. Wet

"It's All in Vain"

Another remarkable R&B gem from this buzzy trio, featuring singer Kelly Zutrau's gorgeous and vulnerable alto.

▶ 8. Panic! at the Disco

"LA Devotee"

The founding

members have long split, but singer Brendon Urie is keeping the emo flame alive with this glammed-up rocker. It's as hot as Panic! faves like "I Write Sins Not Tragedies."

▶ 9. St. Lucia

"Physical"

"I get carried away into the sequence," sings Jean Phillip-Grobler. And you will too with this rousing banger from the party-starting Brooklyn group.

▶ 10. Savages

"T.I.W.Y.G."

A seething anthem of lust and danger from the best female British punk crew going.

▶ 11. School of Seven Bells

"Open Your Eyes"

Benjamin Curtis, who formed School of Seven Bells in 2007 with Alejandra Deheza, died tragically in 2013 from lymphoma, but his spirit lives on with *SVIIIB*, the group's final album, which features this heavenly piece of electro-pop.

▶ 12. Chairlift

"Romeo"

No wonder Beyoncé loves this New York synth-pop duo: The second single from their forthcoming album, *Moth*, mixes singer Caroline Polachek's girl-power lyrics with the quirkiest, twitchiest groove of the new year.



MORE ON EW.COM

Here these songs online at ew.com/winterplaylist



CHART FLASHBACK

1992

We revisit the charts of 24 years ago this week, when **Michael Jackson** went color-blind, **Mariah Carey** pined for lost love, and **Paula Abdul** blew windy kisses. By Leah Greenblatt

- 1 **MICHAEL JACKSON**
"Black or White"
 The song itself is totally serviceable midperiod-MJ guitar pop. But the video has *everything*: rapping Macaulay Culkin, an It's a Small World-style dance bonanza, *Cheers* star George Wendt in a flying Barca-lounger, and face-morphing CGI so fancy it probably made circa-'92 James Cameron mad with jealousy. **A-**
- 2 **BOYZ II MEN**
"It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday"
 ...But it's pretty easy to say hello again at every funeral and graduation and sitcom send-off this a cappella veil of tears still inevitably soundtracks. Get those royaltiez, Boyz! **B+**
- 3 **COLOR ME BADD**
"All 4 Love"
 They really will do any sexy, sexy, new-jack-swing thing for love. Except maybe win a spelling bee. **A-**
- 4 **MARIAH CAREY**
"Can't Let Go"
 You too could turn heartbreak into a soaring, breathy ballad—or you could fall into a tragic K-hole of housepants and stale Oreos for the next four to six weeks, like a normal person. **B**
- 5 **P.M. DAWN**
"Set Adrift on Memory Bliss"
 It eventually went all the way to No. 1 on the Hot 100 and also holds that same spot on the All-Time Best Spandau Ballet-Sampling Boho-Rap Odes to Christina Applegate, which is such a crazy coincidence. **A**

- 6 **CECE PENISTON**
"Finally"
 Basically a perfect I've-waited-my-whole-damn-life-for-this-man anthem; CeCe's so high on her Mr. Right she's just straight-up scatting vowels by the end, and it is glorious. **A+**
- 7 **MICHAEL BOLTON**
"When a Man Loves a Woman"
 When a man loves a woman, he'll spend his very last dime. When Michael Bolton loves a classic soul ballad from the '60s, he turns it into the musical equivalent of a bubble bath filled with boxed wine. **C**
- 8 **MC HAMMER**
"2 Legit 2 Quit"
 2 Legit! 2 Legit 2 Quit! But also 2 broke not 2 file for bankruptcy a few short years later, despite having sold 50 million albums' worth of snazzy drop-crotch jock jams. Poor Hams. **B+**
- 9 **PAULA ABDUL**
"Blowing Kisses in the Wind"
 Paula is driving herself crazy trying to figure out whether her lover really loves her or is just marking time. To be fair, MC Skat Kat's signals were always pretty hard to read. **B**
- 10 **MARKY MARK AND THE FUNKY BUNCH**
"Wildside"
 Proof that an artist famed for grabbing his own funky bunch could get serious by garnishing gritty, Lou Reed-sampling tales of urban blight with only the most tasteful amount of beautifully waxed man-nipple. **B-**



RACHEL PLATTEN

With her new album, *Wildfire*, the "Fight Song" singer, 34, is gearing up for her biggest year yet.
By Dana Rose Falone



How does *Wildfire* stack up to your massive single "Fight Song"?

It's raw, empowering, and honest pop. Even though *Wildfire* has a lot of electronic elements in it, we kept going back to carefully crafted pop, indie rock, and indie pop that has soul.

You wrote hundreds of songs, literally. How'd you pick the dozen on the album?

I tried to find the ones that had the most truth, that felt the most honest. I think there are some songs over the past three years that were super easy to write, but then I look back on them and I'm like, "Eh." "Fight Song" was actually one of the hardest songs to write. It was this awful labor of love—maybe hate. [Laughs] But I love to perform it.

What's in store for 2016?

I'm gonna get right back into it [and tour]. I'm excited to bring people together in a room for a night. And I want everyone to leave the show on a giant high.

JACKSON: MICK HUTSON/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES; MICHAEL BOLTON: TIM ROONE/GETTY IMAGES; ABDUL: RON GALELLA/WIREIMAGE.COM; MC HAMMER: JEFF KRAVITZ/FILMMAGIC.COM; CAREY: KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE.COM; PLATTEN: HARPER SMITH



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What album is this?

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answer questions, play music, check traffic,
weather and much more. *Just ask.*

INTRODUCING
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Books

EDITED BY **TINA JORDAN** @EWTinaJordan

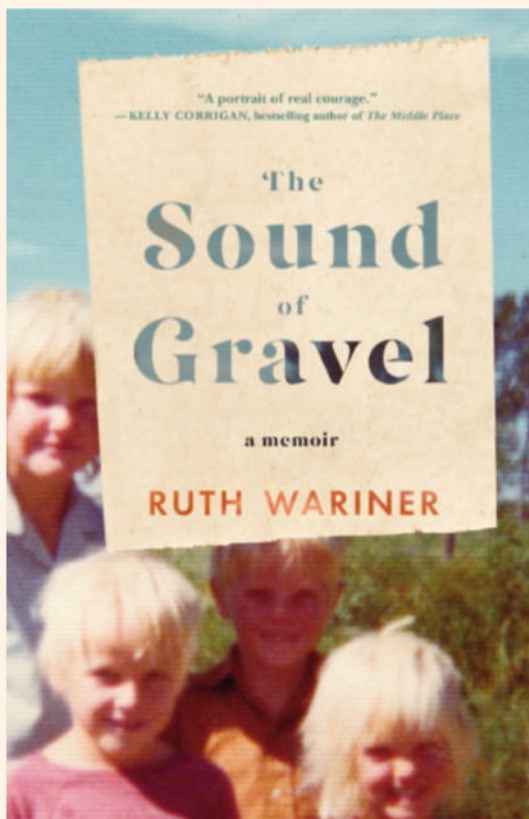
▶ BETWEEN THE LINES

Dark Horse Comics announced it will publish graphic

versions of two **Neil Gaiman** short stories, "How to Talk to

Girls at Parties" and "Troll Bridge." **Merriam-Webster's**

word of the year isn't a word at all—it's the suffix *-ism*.



inside, the turning point, and—finally—the escape. But Ruth Wariner's recollection of growing up in the polygamous Mormon Colonia LeBaron, a small outpost nestled in the Mexican countryside, is more than just interesting on principle. It's so wrenching and moving that I lost sleep finishing the book, and then lost even more lying awake ruminating on it—a testament to Wariner's skill at making painful events from decades ago feel visceral and to her willingness to reopen wounds.

“THE ADULTS IN THIS BOOK ARE PEOPLE YOU WANT TO SLAP AWAKE—ESPECIALLY WHEN THE DEVASTATING CLIMAX KNOCKS THE WIND OUT OF YOU.”

Colonia LeBaron was founded by Wariner's paternal grandfather, an excommunicated fundamentalist Mormon. Her father, murdered by his brother when Wariner was 3 months old, was the church's prophet. After his death, Wariner's mother, Kathy, a former waitress who entered the colony with her parents (they eventually left; she didn't), became the second wife of a man named Lane—a near sociopath who abused Wariner and some of her stepsisters for years. But this abuse isn't even the half of it: Kathy and her growing brood (whom she and Lane once left home alone for weeks) lived in poverty, eating rice and beans and calling various mobile homes across Texas and Mexico home. Ruth shared a bed with her violent, mentally disturbed older sister who wet the bed nightly. The strongest bonds, and perhaps the book's only source of light, are among the Wariner siblings, where Ruth herself is the glue: Her fierce determination to protect and keep her siblings together is a marvel. But the adults in this book are people you want to slap awake—especially when the devastating climax knocks the wind out of you.

Wariner is a survivor, but more important, she's a fantastic writer, letting the unbelievable events of her childhood speak for themselves while she wrestles with issues of blame and—miraculously—forgiveness. **A E C A**

The Sound of Gravel

BY	PAGES	GENRE	REVIEW BY
Ruth Wariner	336	Memoir	Isabella Biedenharn @isabella324



MEMOIRS ABOUT CULTS are inherently fascinating. They appeal to our inner voyeurs, of course, but they also come with an infallible structure: There's the way the group lures you in, the truth about what happens

OPENING LINE "I am my mother's fourth child and my father's thirty-ninth."

Colum McCann

The Irish-born writer—whose most recent work is the short-story collection **Thirteen Ways of Looking**—muses on the books that have shaped his life



My favorite book as a child

Every Christmas Eve my father used to play a recording of Dylan Thomas' **1** *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. I used to love watching the dust collect on the stylus as Thomas' voice boomed out from the speakers: "One Christmas was so much like another..." It's still my favorite Christmas book. I suppose there are no days more full than those we go back to.

The book that cemented me as a writer

On the Road. It made me want my own Kerouac days. I ended up taking a bicycle across the United States. I wasn't quite Dean Moriarty, but I did travel about 8,000 miles around Mexico and the U.S. I slept in campgrounds, gardens, underpasses, in the belly of a hollowed-out redwood tree. I also have to admit to having one night in a jail cell in Jackson

Hole after being a little bit "overserved" at the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar.

What I'd read if I were restricted to just one genre
Literary fiction is my oxygen.

The books I read in secret as a kid
2 Edna O'Brien's

3 *The Country Girls* fired up my teenage imagination. And, of course, *Lolita*.

A book I've returned to time and again

Proxopera by Benedict Kiely, a novella about a retired school-teacher who is forced to drive a bomb into his beloved hometown in Northern Ireland. I don't want to give the ending away, but suffice it to say that art can sometimes sublimely confront the horrors of war.

A classic I've never read

I'm embarrassed to admit that I've never read a book by Jane Austen. I'm even more embarrassed to admit that I don't really want to.

The book that changed my life

At the risk of sounding pretentious, James Joyce's **3** *Ulysses*. I think of it as a living thing. I can walk into the pages and always find something new. I like celebrating Bloomsday every June...a friend of mine calls it "the thinking man's St. Paddy's Day."

A book people might be surprised to learn I love

I once worked as a wilderness guide for kids who came from troubled backgrounds. I used to read them to sleep. One of my favorites was a fable called



1



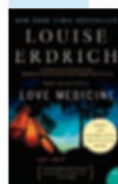
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5



6

4 *Fup* by Jim Dodge. It's a story about a mallard duck—almost enough said, except for the fact that it is a little miracle of a book.

My literary crush

Louise Erdrich, ever since I read **5** *Love Medicine*. And, of course, Molly Bloom.

The last book that made me laugh, and the last one that made me cry

Kevin Barry's **6** *Beatlebone* is magnificently funny. The last time I remember crying was when I read *Stoner* by John Williams.

The movie adaptation I loved

John Huston's last-ever film, *The Dead*, the collision of two great geniuses—Huston and Joyce.

What I'm reading

A collection of stories called *Pond* by a young Irish writer named Claire-Louise Bennett that will be published here next year. It stunned me into silence.

Whether I read my own books post-publication

No, no, no, never. There's a great Irish phrase: "I'd rather go home and iron me leg."

"Literary fiction is my oxygen."



The Season's Most Mouthwatering Cookbooks

From the secrets of favorite restaurants to a batch of remixed basics to jaw-dropping photography, this latest selection of culinary tomes will appeal to your eyes and your belly. **By Isabella Biedenbarn**

The Mission Chinese Food Cookbook

Danny Bowien & Chris Ying

The creators of the San Francisco and New York hot spots don't just share their recipes, they reminisce about their early days as well.

Heart & Soul in the Kitchen

Jacques Pépin

Over the course of his years on PBS, Pépin has likely appeared in your house, and through these recipes, which he cooks at home for family and friends, he invites us into his.

Zahav

Michael Solomonov & Steven Cook

The award-winning chef behind Philly's haven of Israeli cuisine expounds on individual ingredients as well as his dishes.

Lucky Peach Presents 101 Easy Asian Recipes

Peter Meehan & the editors of Lucky Peach

The editors of *Lucky*

Peach aren't lying: These tasty creations involve zero tricky frying, but lots of flavor.

Mark Bittman's Kitchen Matrix

Mark Bittman

He's taught us *How to Cook Everything*, but he's still not done: In the latest from Bittman, we learn more basic recipes—and their scrumptious variations.

The Southerner's Cookbook

Editors of Garden & Gun

This appetizing compendium covers everything from classic spoon bread to bacon jam (yeah!) to instructions for roasting an entire hog.

Heirloom Harvest

Amy Goldman & Jerry Spagnoli

It may not be your traditional cookbook, but this collection of heirloom vegetables captured in daguerreotype—the joint effort of a plant conservationist and a revered photographer—is still a treat.



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The Bullseye



Guess who won't be hosting the next Miss Universe pageant.



For *NCIS*' 300th episode, you might finally look up what *NCIS* stands for.



"When will Frank Ocean release his album?" is the new "When will Adele release her album?"



After critics slammed her playing Asian in *Aloha*, Emma Stone has wisely dropped out of that Mother Teresa biopic.



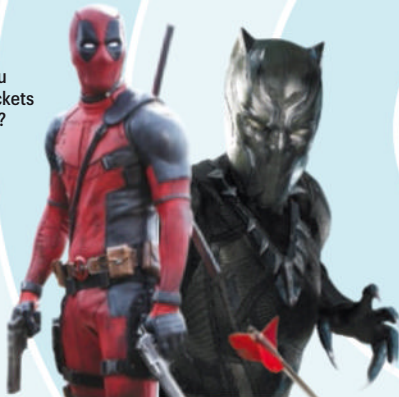
It's 2016. Do you know where your tickets to *Hamilton* are?



Fantastic geeks and when to find them—Nov. 18, 2016, at midnight, most likely.



Local woman settles feud.



The next wave of super-heroes is already posing the hardest Would You Rather? game of the year.



Hillary Clinton on *Broad City* > that whole presidential-election thing



Zayn's solo career: more Justin Timberlake or JC Chasez?



For her nostalgic tour through late-'90s and early-'00s telecommunications devices, Adele's next video features a BlackBerry.



Defying all laws of science and modern medicine, Nick Jonas miraculously grows another ab.



Time to start your Olympic training! (Swap positions on the couch every 20 minutes.)



Wow, has it really been 50 years that we've been watching football commercials?



Frugal tip: Fool your kids with new *Angry Birds* merchandise by just pouring red paint on all that *Minions* stuff you bought them.



2015: Pizza Rat
2016: Jamba Juice Sean Penn



Grease is the word. *Grease: Live* is...well, a different word.

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